

Kuwaiti papers welcome pledge for democracy

KUWAIT (AP) — Newspapers Friday welcomed a statement by the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, saying the government will consider restoring parliament, suspended three years ago, and ending press censorship.

Sheikh Saad made the remarks to reporters in Cairo Thursday during an official visit to Egypt amid growing agitation among the country's 1.7 million population for the restoration of democracy.

"We hope that the return home of the crown prince will witness a constructive dialogue on the country's concerns, which currently dominate public preoccupations," wrote Mohammad Mousaad Al Saleh, a prominent journalist and lawyer in a front-page article in the Al Watan daily.

In Cairo, Saad noted that the July 1986 decree dissolving parliament issued by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, stated that the move "does not mean the end of parliamentary life" in Kuwait.

"This was a commitment made by... the emir," he said.

"We in Kuwait believed, and still believe, in the feasibility of the public's participation (in running the country) and its role in supervision and legislation," Sheikh Saad said.

"On the basis of this concept, we will work toward finding a formula that prevents Kuwait from being exposed to a third crisis," he added.

He was referring to political crises in 1986, when parliament was suspended, and in 1976, when the assembly was suspended for four years.

Sheikh Saad said that within days, decisions related to lifting the censorship imposed on Kuwait's once free-wheeling press when parliament was dissolved would be announced.

Kuwait's information minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah, said recently that while the government was interested in restoring democratic life, it was looking for a concept other than reconstituting parliament. He did not elaborate.

Mousaad wrote: "We don't think that Kuwait will be plunged into a third crisis if parliamentary life is restored to the country because the developments in the region have a different tendency in the light of cessation of the Gulf war and the... multiplicity of opinions in more than an Arab country, including Jordan, which has restored parliamentary life."

He added: "The ideal solution lies in lifting censorship so that citizens can express their ideas freely, and in political openness so that the diwanis can play a role in expressing the public's viewpoints concerning the restoration of parliamentary life."

Another Kuwaiti daily, Al Ra'i Al Aam, said in an editorial: "The crown prince's remarks are a reflection of public ambitions which are not confined to Kuwait, but include the rest of the Arab World, as we cannot deal with recent (world) changes except through the consolidation of democracy."

When Kuwait's 50-member parliament was suspended, it was the only elected chamber in any of the six Arab Gulf states.

Bahrain was the only other country to have had a parliament. It was dissolved in 1975.

The Kuwaiti chamber was suspended after legislators criticised government policy while the country was being hit by Iranian sabotage at the height of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war and was being buffeted by the world's oil price plunge.

Violent attacks on government policy prompted the 1976 suspension.

In recent weeks, former parliamentarians, encouraged by the August 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war and the improving oil situation, have been pressing for the restoration of parliament and a free press.

Turkey seeks return of ancient silver coins

BOSTON (AP) — A \$10-million hoard of ancient silver coins dating to the 5th century B.C. is at the centre of a battle here between the Republic of Turkey, which claims they were smuggled out of the country, and an American millionaire and his partners.

Turkey has filed a federal complaint against the businessmen, seeking the return of about 1,900 silver coins it contends were illegally excavated in 1984 by several Turkish nationals and then smuggled to dealers in Germany.

The businessmen say when they bought the coins, the dealer showed them documents proving he legally owned them.

The coins are from the ancient Greek and Lycian cultures. They include a number of decad-rachms, a rare group of coins minted in special issue in the highest known Athenian denomination.

The Turkish government claims they are from a site near Emali in southern Anatolia, a region in the southeastern part of the country.

Turkey's civil complaint was filed Dec. 29, 1989, in U.S. district court at Boston. Judge John J. McNaught was assigned to the case.

The Turks seek return of the coins, or to be paid damages of "in excess of \$10 million," said Lawrence Kaye, a lawyer with the New York firm representing Turkey.

Those named in the complaint include William Koch, a millionaire who lives in West Palm Beach, Florida, and elsewhere, and his Dedham Business, Oxbow Corporation, as well as OKS Partners, a partnership which includes Koch.

Carey Ramos, a lawyer for Oxbow, said the coins had been obtained legally, and said the Turks had no right to claim them.

"Athenians traveled throughout the Mediterranean world. Who do the coins belong to? If you want to get into a philosophical debate, I suppose you'd say they belong to somebody in Athens 2,500 years ago," said Ramos, who is an attorney in New York.

In Turkey, however, the government has laid claim to all antiquities out of Turkish ground since the beginning of the 20th century, Kaye said.

Turkish law also prohibited excavation without a license, said Harry Rand, another attorney with Herrick, Feinstein. Kaye said the people who excavated the coins had been prosecuted, and some were serving a prison sentence in Turkey.

Some of the coins had been returned already by other owners, although that had come about by negotiation and not court action, Kaye said.

Ramos said he did not know how many coins of the original hoard were owned by OKS, or how much they paid for them. Connoisseur magazine, in an article that appeared last year, said the partnership bought about 1,650 coins for \$2.7 million in 1984. Later, Koch sold about 60 of them, the magazine said.

Koch's two partners in OKS, Jonathan Kagan and Jeffrey Spier, are also named in the complaint, as is the Spring Creek Art Foundation, a foundation endowed by Koch.

Mubarak sacks interior minister

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak Friday dismissed Egypt's top domestic security official, whose reported name-calling caused a storm of protest by opposition parties, journalists and others.

A presidential decree named as Interior Minister Zaki Badr's successor Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa, a career police officer currently serving as a provincial governor.

Musa, 59, is a former director of public security whose highest rank as a police officer was a major general. In 1987 he served as assistant to the ousted interior minister.

Musa's last job before his new appointment was as governor of the southern province of Assiut, a long-time centre of Muslim fundamentalist violence.

Badr moved to the cabinet as interior minister from the same Assiut post in 1986, after two days of rioting in Cairo by thousands of security policemen protesting work conditions and pay.

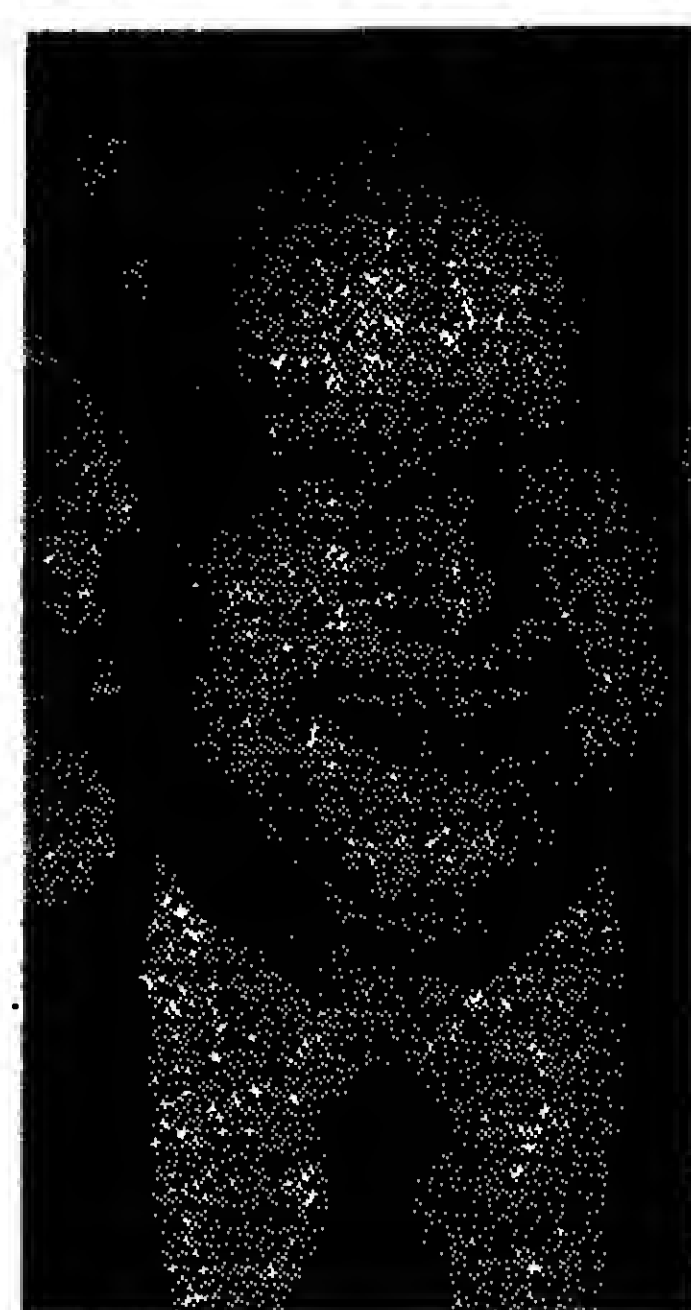
Badr, known for harsh and sustained crackdowns on Muslim extremists, lost his job less than a month after surviving an apparent assassination attempt attributed to them.

A truck bomb went off in a suburban Cairo district on Dec. 16, seconds before Badr's motorcade passed en route to a police club for the minister's regular more jogging and tennis. A medical student from Assiut University was arrested at the site, and around 300 people were rounded up in the following week.

Badr's sharp tongue and iron-fisted security operations — in certain periods last year, as many as 6,000 alleged Muslim militants were held at one time — earned him the ire of opposition parties. Many used their daily or weekly publications to attack him.

Ignoring the opposition's blasts, Mubarak retained Badr. On occasion last year, the president praised the Interior Ministry's performance in fighting extremists and maintaining public order.

But Mubarak, known for civil, measured language in public, apparently lost patience after Badr last weekend reportedly hurled insults at opposition



Zaki Badr

groups, lawyers, journalists and even his own cabinet colleagues.

Badr was quoted as saying in a free-wheeling speech at a rally in the Nile Delta town of Benha that he wanted to kill all members of the Muslim Brotherhood, a fundamentalist group with parliamentary representation and a national following of hundreds of thousands. Badr always lumped that moderate organisation with violence-prone Muslim activists of the so-called Al Gainaat Al Islamiya, or Islamic groups.

Badr's alleged offensive remarks were published Tuesday and Wednesday by the opposition socialist Labour Party's weekly newspaper Al Shaab and the weekly Al Ahali, organ of the opposition National Unionist Progressive Party. Al Shaab said it had tape recordings.

The minister reportedly cited a saying by a Imam Shafeli, a leading Muslim scholar, to the effect that he would not mind killing one-third of a nation if this ensured the security of the other two-thirds.

"I want to kill only one per cent (of Egypt's) population," Badr was quoted as saying in the Benha distribute.

This would mean about half a million people, apparently Badr's estimate of fundamentalist strength.

The two opposition newspapers printed many examples of alleged abusive Badr language: members of the Muslim Brotherhood are "devils," some fellow cabinet ministers are "puppets... thieves... thugs... son of bitches."

The reported vitriol triggered demands that he be sacked, stripped of his parliamentary immunity and brought to trial. Under Egypt's criminal code, insulting people is punishable by up to two years in prison and a fine.

Some opposition party writers said Mubarak was responsible for Badr's conduct and that failure to dismiss him would mean that the president condoned his behaviour.

Except for a single columnist's article Friday, Cairo's three major government-owned newspapers ignored the controversy.

In that article, columnist Mustafa Amin, denounced by Badr as "filthy and decayed," wrote in Al Akhbar:

"We trample all the name-calling under our feet (in contempt)... but this is the first time in Egypt's history that a cabinet minister has threatened to exterminate half a million Egyptians. The interior minister's job is to watch over Egyptians, not to kill them. We want to know if this (Badr's threat) is the view of the state or just (that of) the interior minister."

Unlike Badr, his successor Musa is known in security circles as an advocate of conciliation rather than confrontation in dealing with extremists. He is known among associates as "the sheikh of Arabs," a title usually given to a tribal leader who presides over conciliation meetings.

Born in a Nile Delta town Nov. 25, 1930, Musa was graduated from the police academy in 1954. He was awarded three state decorations for distinction and was director of public security between 1983 and 1987. He became Badr's assistant in 1987 moved in the same year to the Assiut governorship that he held until Friday.

Musa is married, with two daughters and a son.



Afghan rebel fighters keep watch over a government position.

U.S. taking a new look at stalemate in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is taking a new look at its policy towards Afghanistan in light of the stalemate between the Soviet-backed government and the U.S.-armed rebels, officials said Thursday.

Under-Secretary of State Robert Kimmitt leaves Saturday for a week-long trip to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India to discuss the Afghan situation and other issues, the State Department said.

In Pakistan, Kimmitt is meeting with exiled leaders of Afghan rebel groups. He will also hold talks with the Pakistani leadership. The United States funnels about \$600 million worth of weapons through Pakistan to the rebels, known as Mujahadeen.

In Saudi Arabia, a major contributor to the Mujahadeen, Kimmitt will discuss with officials how best to help the rebels, a U.S. official said.

Almost a year after the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, the rebels have defied U.S. predictions they would overthrow the government of President Najibullah. They have made some gains in the countryside but cities remain in the hands of government forces.

The government, on the other hand, has been unable to consolidate its power throughout the country, despite what U.S. officials claim are massive infusions of Soviet arms.

The United States insists it will keep backing the rebels until Na-

jibullah, installed during the nine-year Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, steps down and allows free elections.

But the Mujahadeen's military failure, coupled with fighting among factions of the rebel coalition, is raising concern in Washington.

"We're taking a fresh look," said one U.S. official. "Policy must always reflect changing circumstances," he added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"I'm glad the Bush administration is reassessing our effort," said senator Gordon Humphrey, a strong ally of the Mujahadeen. "Our policy has been on autopilot since the end of the Reagan administration."

U.S. tactics towards the Mujahadeen must change to fit the changed situation on the ground following the Soviet pullout, including new training and a different mix of weapons, he said.

The United States should also demand that the Pakistani secret service, which distributes the U.S. weapons, stop playing the different Afghan groups off against each other and provide them with their fair share of weapons, Humphrey said.

Humphrey said there was "a lot of dissatisfaction in the Senate because we're not getting much for our money." Next time Congress is asked to approve aid for the Mujahadeen, "I'm going to insist that conditions are attached," such as bringing in Defence Department experts to

help the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in supporting the rebels, he said.

The Afghan standoff is expected to come up in talks next month in Moscow between Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Security Council unanimously approved Thursday a two-month extension of the deployment of some 40 military observers with the U.N. Good Offices mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The mission, manned by officers drawn from other U.N. field operations, was established under the April 1988 Geneva accords and monitored the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, completed in February 1989.

UNGOMAP checks on allegations by Afghanistan and Pakistan of interference in each other's internal affairs, barred under the Geneva agreements.

The council took only a few minutes to renew the UNGOMAP mandate.

Soviet Ambassador Alexander Belonogov told reporters later that all council members except the United States would have agreed to a six-month extension.

A spokeswoman for the United States mission said it believed a two-month renewal allowed enough time for discussion of UNGOMAP's future role. She noted that Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would visit Moscow next week.

U.S. slashes contribution, threatens to leave FAO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has sharply reduced its annual contribution to a U.N. food agency that supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and warned it might pull out of the world body altogether, according to the State Department.

"The United States has determined that for our calendar year 1989 it would pay the \$18 million necessary to retain our vote in the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)," said spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

The United States is supposed to pay \$61.4 million for 1989, which is 25 per cent of the agency's budget.

"We will reassess our participation in the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation during 1990," Tutwiler added.

U.S. ire was sparked by the agency's governing council, which voted overwhelmingly last November to help the PLO teach Palestinians how to grow food in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The U.N. agency ignored repeated U.S. warnings — both private and public — against adopting the resolution, which was introduced by Arab members

in the 110-nation body.

The United States also was angered by the budget adopted at the meeting, which projected a three per cent growth for 1990 and 1991, said another source.

The Rome-based organisation ignored a U.S. demand for a budget freeze pending reforms, the source said.

Contributing further to the decision about the aid cuts was the governing council's decision to deny U.S. representative Dan Amstutz his right to chair the Food and Agriculture Council under a rotation system, the source said.

The United States has clashed repeatedly with the United Nations and its affiliated agencies over their budgets and their support for the PLO.

The FAO's resolution, adopted by 96 members with only the United States and Israel in opposition, called for the organisation to provide the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories with assistance "in close cooperation with the PLO."

It also criticised Israel's "confiscation of Palestinian land and the expropriation of Palestinian water resources."

The United States argued that

the resolution was political in nature and veered from the organisation's charter of providing agricultural assistance to developing nations.

In Rome, an FAO official said a U.S. decision to cut funding was "unfair and unjustified." The official, who asked not to be named, said the resolution "doesn't say the FAO must work through the PLO," and that all but two countries agreed it was "not a political resolution... but a technical issue."

The United States is the member most in arrears to the U.N. Last October, it delivered a \$65-million check to the organisation, reducing its debt to \$635 million.

The accrued debt goes back to 1985, when then-President Ronald Reagan withheld some dues from the U.N. to protest what he said was the body's anti-U.S. bias, its overblown budget and inefficient administration.

The United Nations responded with some reforms and Reagan pronounced himself satisfied shortly before leaving office. However, Congress last fall turned down the administration's request for an additional \$46 million to pay some of the back dues.

Egypt controversial novelist dies

CAIRO (Agencies) — Ihsan Abdul Qudous, a leading Egyptian novelist and journalist jailed under the country's last king and its revolutionary leader, has died aged 70.

He died in a Cairo hospital Thursday night after 10 days in a coma following a brain hemorrhage, hospital officials said.

Abdul Qudous, imprisoned by King Farouk and Gamal Abdul Nasser for his political writing, also provoked outcries among conservatives with his feminist novels and sexual scenes in his short stories.

He was the author of about 100 novels, books on politics or short-story collections, some of which were translated into several languages.

His novel "I Am Free" tells the story of an independent young Egyptian woman in the new society after the 1952 revolution which toppled the monarchy. Among his best known works were "The Bus Thief," "A Man in our House" and "A nose and Three Eyes."

Abdul Qudous showed an early interest in politics, taking part in student demonstrations in the 1930s against British occupation. He was once quoted as saying he received a good beating at one of the protests.

He graduated from Cairo University in 1942 but after two years as a lawyer joined his mother's political weekly, Rose Al Youssef.

He was first jailed in 1945 for an article urging British Ambassador Sir Miles Lampson to leave the country. After his release in October the same year, he became editor-in-chief of the political weekly.

His most famous press campaign followed the 1948 Arab-Israeli war when he exposed a major corruption scandal about obsolete weapons delivered to the Egyptian army.

This brought him in contact with Nasser, then an obscure army officer leading a secret cell called "The Free Officers."

After the revolution, his critical article "The Secret Society

Ruling Egypt" provoked Nasser to order his arrest. He was freed after three months in Cairo's military prison, then notorious for its use of torture.

Detained again a few months later, he was released within hours on Nasser's orders.

In 1966 Abdul Qudous was appointed editor-in-chief of Akhbar Al Yom. He became editor and chairman of Al Ahram, Egypt's other leading newspaper, in 1975.

Critics accused him of over-emphasising sex in his novels, most of which were made into films or television series. The Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Masmoun, which attacked him in a series of articles, described him as "the love-bed novelist."

Abdul Qudous defended his work as an attempt to deal with life realistically, saying his references to sex were not gratuitous.

Abdul Qudous also wrote regular syndicated columns in Cairo's government-owned newspapers and magazines.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	.....	Koran
15:40	.....	Programme review
15:45	.....	Children programme
17:30	.....	Educational programme
18:00	.....	News summary
18:05	.....	Message from Iraq
18:25	.....	A play by Shakespeare
19:10	.....	Local programme
19:15	.....	Programme review
19:20	.....	News in Arabic
20:30	.....	Arabic series
21:30	.....	Programme review
21:40	.....	Consumer's Guide
22:25	.....	Local programme
23:00	.....	News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	.....	Variety programme
19:00	.....	News in French
19:15	.....	Documentary
19:30	.....	News in Hebrew
19:45	.....	Natural Phenomena
20:00	.....	News in Arabic
20:30	.....	Ammie McGuire
21:00	.....	Wild the Courage
21:15	.....	Classical music
22:00	.....	News in English
22:30	.....	Feature film: Witness for the Prosecution

PRAYER TIMES

05:11	.....	Fajr
06:32	.....	(Sunrise) Dhuhr

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciations Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 625546
Church of the Annunciations Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772911
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold with easterly winds, in

Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./max.	temp.
Amman	2/1	10
Aqaba	9/21	21
Deserts	4/-11	
Jordan Valley	3/17	

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 9, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Hourani 625478
Dr. Yafsa Abdel Raim 730704
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Ques 975489
Dr. Selimian Khayyat 791880
Firas pharmacy 661912
Farkoush pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 670785
Nawroshi pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

TRIPOLI:
Dr. Mahmoud Khali (—)
Al Shams' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Awad (—)
Khalid pharmacy 958417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence immediate
Rescue 630341
Roadside Emergency 699777
Rescue Police No. 192, 621111, 15117
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 603800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897466
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
..... 121
Overseas 010320
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
..... 63681
RJ Flight Information 06-33200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Abul Amman Maternity 64236
Malina, J. Amman 636440
Palestine, Shamsian 664717/4
Shamsian Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845843
Al-Mushter Hospital 667270
The Islamic, Abdali 666123/7
Al-Abi, Abdali 664164/6
Isaiah, Al-Mushajroon 777102/3
Al-Badr, J. Abdali 775112/3
Army, Marja 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA
ZARQA
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983573
Zarga National Hospital (09)910771
Int Sana Hospital (09)96732

DEBID:
Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Nafaa Hospital (02)247700
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33000-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:05	.....	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:45	.....	Baghdad (RJ)
09:00	.....	Damascus (RJ)
09:15	.....	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	.....	New Delhi (RJ)
09:35	.....	Cairo (RJ)
09:35	.....	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:00	.....	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	.....	Cairo (RJ)
17:00	.....	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:45	.....	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:40	.....	Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00	.....	Baghdad (IA)
10:05	.....	Cairo (MSE)
10:25	.....	Riyadh (SV)
12:25	.....	Riyadh (SV)
13:00	.....	Cairo (MSE)
13:45	.....	Tripoli (LV)
17:05	.....	Rome (AZ)
17:30	.....	Dubai, Damascus (EK)
21:20	.....	Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	.....	Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)
10:40	.....	Tripoli (RJ)
10:45	.....	Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
11:45	.....	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00	.....	Madrid (RJ)
12:00	.....	London (RJ)
12:15	.....	Paris (RJ)
12:30	.....	Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:00	.....	Cairo (RJ)
13:00	.....	Al-Medina (RJ)
13:45	.....	Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
20:10	.....	Jeddah (RJ)
20:45	.....	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15	.....	Beirut (MSE)
09:55	.....	Cairo (MSE)

11:00	.....	Baghdad (IA)
13:00	.....	Riyadh (SV)
14:05	.....	Karachi (LV)
15:00	.....	Kuwait (KU)
18:30	.....	Dubai (AZ)
18:30	.....	Dubai (EK)

MARKET PRICES

Uppercut price in fils per kg.

Apples	420 / 380
Bananas	420 / 400
Bananas (Mukhmar)	400 / 350
Beans	400 / 350
Cabbages	80 / 50
Carrots	110 / 80
Cauliflower	150 / 120
Cucumbers (small)	300 / 240
Cucumbers (large)	300 / 240
Dates	150 / 100
Eggplant	150 / 100
Garlic	800 / 700
Green beans	200 / 170
Lemon	200 / 150
Marrow (large)	80 / 50
Marrow (small)	140 / 100
Onions (dry)	240 / 180
Onions (green)	150 / 100
Orange	180 / 120
Orange (Stamout)	320 / 280
Pepper (hot)	370 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	460 / 400
Potatoes	240 / 180
Raddish	130 / 80
Sage	450 / 350
Spinach	100 / 60
Tomatoes	150 / 100

Writers plan to make presence felt in cultural scene

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government is trying to walk on the road of democracy, and freedom in culture expression is one of the prime minister's main concerns, according to the vice-president of the Jordan Writers Association (JWA), Salem Al Nahhas.

"The reversal of the June 1987 decision to dissolve the JWA is an indication of Badran's desire to democratise the field of culture in Jordan," Nahhas told the Jordan Times.

The JWA was dissolved by then Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i's government two and a half years ago. The reasons given by the government at the time was that the JWA served as "a forum for political activities, and that members used the association as a meeting place to serve their own selfish interests."

According to Nahhas, Rifa'i's government could not handle the association's manifestations of its political attitude, which called for democracy and general freedoms.

"For thirteen years, the JWA had done a great job in the cultural scene in the Kingdom. We published more than one hundred books, had well-received meetings with the public in Jordan, especially in Amman," Nahhas said. "The political attitude of the association's leadership always tended of fight for democracy and general freedoms," he said, adding that these reasons and the criteria of the JWA was "too much for Mr. Zaid Rifa'i's government, so they didn't have anything to do except dissolve the association."

The president of the JWA, Khalid Al Karaki, was appointed by Badran as minister of culture. Karaki remains as the president of the association, and board elections were expected to be held next month.

However, Karaki decided to extend the administrative elections of the board of the JWA until March to enable the association more time to organise their affairs after two and half years of being defunct.

According to an observer, Karaki's position as culture minister indicates Badran's seriousness in allowing more openness and freedom in the field of culture and expression.

"I think that the reversal of Rifa'i's decision is an ongoing process in allowing more freedom to writers, or anyone else for that matter," Nahhas said. "It is an ongoing process because this is by the nature of things, by the nature of the struggle of our people to go ahead towards full democracy," Nahhas added.

The writer, also a political activist who ran in last November's parliamentary race, noted that this democratisation process cannot be stopped on any front — be it political, cultural or economic.

He added that those who are engaged in creative writing hope that this government, or any other government involved in the democratic process, fulfills the responsibility of giving the writers more freedoms.

Nahhas added that the freedom "which has been given to us, (or which we have taken, actually) up till now is not enough. We have to go ahead and abolish the press and publications law and create new laws which give more freedom for publishing and distributing books in Jordan. So we have a lot to do in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, and

with the government as a whole within the process of democracy in Jordan."

When the JWA was closed down, a new pro-government writers federation was established in July 1987. The federation continues to function despite the reversal of the decision, and it recently held elections.

The Jordan Writers Federation consists of 150 members. According to a member of the federation's board, Dia'uddin Rifa'i, having two Jordanian writers organisations is not conflicting.

"The Jordanian cultural scene allows for several cultural institutions in the country, like the Royal Cultural Centre, Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, and so on," Rifa'i told the Jordan Times.

He added that there is no existing relationship between the federation and the association, but believes that after the association's elections, there will be dialogue for future cooperation between the two institutions.

"There is no conflict as long as the aim is one, which is serving and advancing culture in the Arab World and in Jordan in particular," Rifa'i stated.

The federation is not a member of the Pan-Arab Writers Union. But according to Rifa'i, its members applied to become members of the union, and the decision of acceptance or rejection is expected to be made at the union's conference next month.

However, the JWA, consisting of 300 writers, is a member of the Pan-Arab Writers Union, and despite the government's dissolution of the association, it remained a member of the union, which includes all Arab countries except Egypt and Sudan. The JWA continued its work with the four-member general secretariat of the union.

According to Nahhas, the JWA "can accept the federation within what is happening in the country regarding pluralism in politics."

But after picking ourselves up again and with the process of our work in the association, we are sure that the federation will face away with time."

He added that the administrative body of the JWA had not dissolved itself. Therefore, Nahhas said, "our people did not join the federation after the association was ordered closed."

He went on to say that the federation has members whom the JWA does not recognise as writers or representatives of Jordanian writers "because the writers who are known by our people did not join the federation."

Nahhas is author of five published books, one of which is a play entitled "Elections" published in Beirut 1982. His other work includes three novels: "Those Years," "And You, Madaba," and his latest, "Arenas," published in 1988, and a book of short stories entitled "Impotent Papers."

All of Nahhas' books were published in Beirut because his work was banned from publication, as well as from being distributed in Jordan because of his political stands.

"I don't know if this ban is still imposed on my work because I haven't submitted anything for publishing after the openness in the Kingdom," Nahhas said.

The writer was also detained several times in past years, the last time of which was for 18 weeks after the unrest in the south in April last year, due to his political stands and activity.



A scene from one of the passing points on the River Jordan (File photo)

Palestinian influx worries Jordan

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Palestinians are leaving the Israeli occupied territories to come to Jordan in increasing numbers because of hardships due to the two-year-old uprising against Israeli rule, officials said Friday.

The trend is alarming Jordanian officials who worry the government may have to take tough measures to stop the exodus.

"If we emigrate from our land who will be left there to fight?" asked leading Jordanian columnist Tariq Masarweh. He said the bridges across the Jordan River should be closed.

Mohammed Edwan, head of the Ministry of Interior's Control and Inspection Department, said last year 269,835 people crossed from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to Jordan while only 262,894 people returned.

Since mid-1983 a total of 45,594 people, from the West Bank and Gaza Strip had taken a one-way ticket to Jordan, Edwan said. Over half stayed in the Kingdom, the rest moved on.

"What is even more terrible is that the figures of those who did not return home in 1989 are almost double compared to those who did not in 1988," he told Reuters Friday.

Masarweh in his Thursday column referred to a dramatic upsurge in Soviet Jews settling in the occupied territories, saying "each Palestinian leaving his homeland is making space for an emigrating Jew."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan warned last October that all but 18,000 of the 200,000 Jews expected to

leave the Soviet Union between 1989 and 1990 would end up in the occupied territories "at the expense of the Palestinians there, and, by extension, at the expense of Jordan since there could be another exodus."

"Either we have a land or we don't... either we stay on the land of Palestine or they (Israelis) stay," Masarweh said. "Our war with Zionism is a battle on the land of the conflict itself."

"How come we condemn the right-wing Israeli theory of transfer that is based on moving the Palestinians into Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt... when we are facilitating its implementation?" he added.

Israel gives West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians permits to travel abroad but they have to return usually between one month and three years or lose their residence rights.

Jordan lets residents of the occupied areas stay for up to a year and will normally renew permits if their Israeli travel documents are valid.

"Some of those who stay beyond their... limits might lose their right to return to their homeland and become displaced," Edwan added.

He said the uprising was a key factor behind the rise in the number of residents leaving the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Many Palestinians cannot find jobs anymore because of the intifada. Many fathers are taking their children out because they don't want them to be harmed or arrested by the Israelis," he added.

Jordanians have expressed concern over recent claims by Israeli hardliners that the Kingdom could eventually serve as an alternative Palestinian homeland.

ACC housing ministers issue recommendations to boost ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers in charge of housing and reconstruction in the four-member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ended a two-day meeting in Amman Thursday with a set of recommendations designed to boost cooperation and promote construction work.

The recommendations were based on reports prepared by technical teams from each country with proposals on the unification of standards and specifications, classification of engineering consultancy offices and vocational training.

A statement that followed the closing session urged that more attention be given to urban development and homes for low-income groups.

The statement urged ACC countries — Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen — to preserve Arab and Islamic style architecture in the construction of official buildings and in the organisational plans of cities.

The four states recommended that a specialised committee be set up to follow up the question of unifying standards and specifications, and requested Egypt to lead the group by drawing up a proposed plan.

They also urged a technical team entrusted with tackling the question of classifying contractors and engineering consultancy offices to carry on with its work and prepare a set of principles for contracts and for establishing a data bank.

The statement encouraged contractors to employ locally produced building materials which can help provide sufficient homes for low income and needy people.

The deliberations will be presented to the ACC's upcoming ministerial meeting, according to the statement which also said that the ACC ministers would meet again in Baghdad in May 1990.

Also on Thursday, the ministers visited the Sahab Industrial City and were briefed on the project by Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Director-General Fayez Subeimat. Subeimat detailed incentives given to investors and the types of industries and facilities found within the industrial city.

Rain delay causes fodder crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delay in rainfall created a crisis in the availability of fodder and animal feed to livestock breeders in the Kingdom, but cooperation between farmers and concerned authorities can help overcome the problem, Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat was quoted as saying by Al-Ra'i Arabic daily.

Arabiyat said that the government had subsidised maize, barley and bran, commodities that can be bought at limited prices from the Ministry of Supply. Distribution of animal feed to farmers is being conducted through 25 centres operated by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO),

Arabiyat said.

Arabiyat said that the Ministry of Agriculture was studying the adverse effects of the current frost wave and the prospect of compensating farmers for their loss. The ministry is also considering a proposal for introducing a system that can provide insurance to farmers against crop damage resulting from natural causes.

The ministry also plans to re-consider the subject of agricultural cropping patterns that had been applied in the country over the past years and will introduce new systems to control farming inputs and agricultural markets after consultation with representatives of the farmers association.

'Occupied' crops

Referring to agricultural crops from the occupied Arab territories Arabiyat said that an arrangement had been concluded with farmers associations in the West Bank on marketing their crops in Jordan within a given timetable in the present season. He said that facilitating the sale of West Bank crops in Jordan and Arab countries was bound to give further support for the Palestinian people's struggle and boost the uprising against Israeli occupation.

Cooperation in agriculture with Australia discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prospects for promoting agricultural cooperation between Australia and Jordan were reviewed at a meeting here Thursday by Australian Ambassador Robert Bowker and Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat. Questions related to exchanges of expertise in agricultural projects, pasture lands and fattening of sheep were discussed at the meeting held at the

minister's office. The two sides also discussed the prospect of setting up a quarantine facility at Aqaba for Australian live sheep imported by Jordan to meet the shortage in lean meat on the local markets.

Australia has been helping Jordan expand and improve its agricultural sector through technical assistance programmes. In 1987 a

joint venture Australia's Sagrie International Company signed a contract with a local firm to contribute to the development of the Zarqa Basin project. Several Arab and foreign funds have also contributed to the project. The scheme is aimed at introducing a radical approach to problems of soil erosion and land degradation in more than 83,000 hectares within the Zarqa catchment area.

Symposium to encourage blood donation by public

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from eleven countries in the eastern Mediterranean region will gather in Amman Sunday for a two-day symposium on ways of encouraging people to donate blood and means of preserving blood for emergency use and operations.

According to Dr. Janet Mirza, director of the blood bank at the Ministry of Health, the symposium, which is organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), aims to encourage blood donation on a periodical basis since blood transfusion has become one of the main and most important medical services for which no other substitute has yet been found.

Apart from the delegations representing Arab and foreign countries including Jordan, several

WHO experts and specialists from the United Kingdom, United States as well as representatives of the Central Blood Bank in Jordan will address the sessions.

Numerous topics related to blood donation procedures, selection of blood donors and incentives for people to donate blood will be discussed by the delegates, according to Mirza.

Kaddoumi hails Soviet move to boost PLO status

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official has welcomed the Soviet Union's decision to upgrade the PLO status to that of an embassy but downplayed Moscow's decision to upgrade ties with Israel.

"This move is an indication that the Soviet Union is dealing with the Palestinian people on the level of a state," Farouq Al Kaddoumi, head of the Foreign Affairs Department of the PLO, told the Jordan Times in an interview Friday.

The PLO saw East European countries' recent soft approach towards Israel, Kaddoumi said "as an internal affair of 'friendly countries'." He added that the socialist countries stand firmly in supporting Palestinians in their struggle for independence.

"We hope these countries do not change their attitude regarding the Middle East conflict and continue their support of our cause in our just struggle to regain our homeland and establish our independent state," Kaddoumi said.

On the expected mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, Kaddoumi noted that the Soviet Union had given the right of all Soviets to travel freely in accordance with the Vienna agreement on human rights.

"The Soviet Union has given freedom to Jews and non-Jews to move without any restrictions. There are now Soviets leaving and returning to the USSR," he noted.

Jordan-PLO ties

The democratic changes and developments taking place in the Kingdom enhances the existing good relations between Jordan and the PLO, according to Kaddoumi. Kaddoumi said that the relationship between Jordan and the PLO has always been distinctive and "on these bases, and due to the new changes and developments we have been watching, we can say that this is a new era in our relationship and in the political life in Jordan."

He added that the PLO was very pleased to see this change take place, and "the applying of more democratic principles in the political life of Jordan would improve the whole situation and gives more potential for further development in all aspects of life."

Kaddoumi arrived in Amman Wednesday and held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Upon his arrival, Kaddoumi described the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan as a failure because it does not respond to PLO demands.

Kaddoumi told the Jordan Times that the Baker plan does not deal with matter of substance. He said it was a plan for "procedural matters," adding that Baker should be "careful" in order to tackle matters of substance.

"The plan tackles one subject: elections, and without relating and linking elections with the process of peace. It also ignores the right of Palestinians to be represented correctly, which is

the PLO — the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Kaddoumi said.

The Baker plan gives the Israelis all guarantees and gives nothing to Palestinians regarding representation, he said.

The PLO official added that even the Israeli response to the Baker plan was negative.

"Israeli Foreign Minister (Moshe) Arens sent a message to the United Nations negating the whole thing. And he tries to go further by saying that the PLO is not and will not be a partner that is viable for negotiations; and that the elections should take place in 'Judea and Samaria' — as if he is ignoring us and ignoring that these are Palestinian territories occupied by Israel," Kaddoumi noted.

Therefore, he continued, because of Israel's obstinate stand, Baker has failed in his endeavours to bring both the Palestinians and Israelis to the same negotiating table.

Kaddoumi said that Israeli and American opposition against PLO participation does not serve the cause of peace, and warned that it would only aggravate tension in the Middle East.

"It might lead to more turmoil and disturbances as a result of Israel's obstinate stand and the biased position of the American administration," he warned.

Kaddoumi added that the biased American policy proves that the U.S. is not serious in seeking peace in this part of the world.

He went on to say that despite the fact that an overwhelming majority of the U.N. members have recognised the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with embassies in more than 90 countries, Israel and the U.S. constantly impose their conditions. He described the two countries as "swimming against the current."

Kaddoumi stated that there was, nevertheless, positive developments on the European stand, which he said advocates the necessity for the convening of an international peace conference on the basis of Security Council resolutions, and the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

"The Europeans are ready to make initiatives in order to seek a comprehensive settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the American position stands against any viable endeavours to do anything," he commented.

However, Kaddoumi believes that the American and Israeli position may change in the near future "because the continuation of the Palestinian struggle is squeezing the Israelis and they will be forced to change their position."

The PLO official called on a united Arab position and said a unified stand would pressure the Israeli and American governments. He said that more than financial support was needed in the Palestinian struggle.

"From the Arab World, we need more active political support within the international arena in order to pressure and woo the support of other nations to impose sanctions against Israel, and at the same time to pressure the U.S. in changing its position," he said.

Syria meeting studies ways to aid Palestinians

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Ways to maintain support for Arab doctors in the Israeli-occupied territories is one of the main topics on the agenda of an ongoing meeting in Damascus by delegates representing doctors union in the Arab World.

Dr. Hassan Khreis, secretary general of the Arab Doctors Federation which is organising the meeting, said that arrangements would be made for providing meaningful help to the Palestinian physicians and medical assistance to the Palestinian people.

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Jordan, Romania review energy ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Boosting Jordanian-Romanian cooperation in energy, oil prospecting and refining were reviewed, at a meeting Thursday by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and Romania's Ambassador to Jordan Dimitrie Stanescu.

attended by the director of the Romanian Petroleum Company and an official from the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), the two sides reviewed operations of two Romanian-owned rigs working with the NRA to drill oil wells at the Wadi Al Sarhan region.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

* An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Resurrected

IT may still be possible to resurrect U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace plan from death after it has been dealt a shock treatment at the hands of no other than Mr. Baker himself who only last Monday told his Norwegian counterpart Kjell Magne Bondevik that he had given up on pursuing his peace proposals. After the Israeli government panicked at the news of the imminent end of the peace process and the Arab side reiterated its 1-101-102-103 comment, there are once again faint signals from everywhere, principally Washington, that the U.S. contacts with the parties in the Middle East are in fact continuing and that Baker is still available to pursue them in spite of the many issues "clamouring for his attention."

The main stumbling bloc remains the role of the PLO as perceived by Israel. There is no doubt that there is a growing gap between the position of the U.S. on this point and that of Israel. The best evidence of this is that the U.S. is on talking terms with the PLO and Israel is not. What causes the Arab side, especially the Palestinian side, a great deal of concern is the inability or, much worse, the unwillingness of Washington to "make" Tel Aviv accept the one and only party that can negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people, i.e., the PLO. If the U.S. took such a long and tortuous road to arrive at the logical and natural conclusion that there is no substitute for the PLO in any peace initiative aiming for the resolution of the Palestinian case, it can save the world and the Middle East region much valuable time and shorten the time factor needed for Israel to reconcile itself with the inevitable and accept the PLO as a full pledged negotiating partner by applying some form of pressure or another.

It is the firm and unshaken view of many observers of the Middle East scene that Washington is indeed capable of delivering Israel if it only accepted to exert the kind of persuasion that is necessary for this admittedly big order. Some more straight talks from Washington could do wonders in rejuvenating the stalemated peace process and now is the time to do it. The parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict can ill afford another major setback in the search for peace and stability in the area and no stone must be left unturned this time around to make the only peace plan on the negotiating table succeed. As has been repeatedly stated by knowledgeable people on the issues and currents of the Middle East, another defeat for the quest for peace in the Middle East will play just right into the hands of extremism on both sides of the Arab-Israeli fence.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday accused Washington of trying to wash its hands of the Arab-Israeli conflict by issuing threats to the Arabs and the Israelis at the same time to respond favourably to the Baker plan for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue over the question of elections in the occupied territories. The paper said that by giving a warning that United States might be looking towards other issues and ignoring the Palestine problem, Washington can not ignore the facts in occupied Palestine. The United States has proved to be impotent with regard to Israel's continued intransigence and it realises too well that it is Israel which has been procrastinating and refusing any peace plan from any source, said the paper. Washington is mistaken to assume that by washing its hands of the question, it will allow Israel to have total hegemony over the Middle East question and consolidate its hold on occupied territories, the paper added. Washington, the paper concluded should realise that the hands of the clock can not be turned back and the Palestinian people's struggle can never stop until the usurped rights and lands are returned to their lawful owners.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily quotes Ministry of Interior figures about a total of 45,594 Palestinians from the occupied territories who came to Jordan on a visit but failed to return to their homeland, and says that there is need for all Palestinians to return to stand fast in the face of Israel and its colonisation moves. Tareq Masarweh says that all those who left their homeland should return, because Israel will otherwise find an excuse and fill their place with Jewish newcomers and settle new Zionists on Arab territory making it more and more difficult for Arabs to regain their lands. The writer says that while it must be admitted that the Arabs are finding it difficult to live under oppression, yet they must remain steadfast with help and support from Arab countries and keep their factories, farms and schools open so that Arab rights can be safeguarded. He says that the conflict in Palestine is one of destiny, and the Arabs ought to offer sacrifice and help the Palestinian people hold on to their lands and their rights.

Al Dustour daily on Friday welcomed the Soviet initiative to bring about peace between Iraq and Iran and end the stalemate in the Gulf following the ceasefire brought about by U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. The paper said that the Soviet mediation demonstrates Moscow's dynamism and its determination to help end the regional conflict, thus ending an American monopoly or hegemony over regional issues around the world. Should the Soviets succeed in their mission, the way will be open for Soviet diplomacy to resolve other issues at a time when the United States influence is retreating in many part of the world, the paper noted. Washington's influence is particularly retreating in the Middle East region where it has failed to bring pressure to bear on Israel to accept the call of peace and open a dialogue with the PLO, the paper pointed out. For this reason it said the whole world is watching with deep interest the Soviet initiative and considering it, as a major diplomatic contribution towards enhancing world peace.

Why Third World is uneasy about East Europe

ALTHOUGH European Community EC officials insist that such fears are groundless, its Third World partners remain concerned over the effect the changes in Eastern Europe will have on the relationship.

This is despite the fact that the \$13 billion aid package being offered under the Fourth Lome Convention represents an almost 50 per cent increase on that provided under the current accord. This expires in February.

Nevertheless, an uneasy persists among the 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries who benefit from the trade and aid provisions of the Lome agreements. These are the most comprehensive of the links that the 12-nation EC has established with well over 100 other states.

What the ACPs, as they are known, fear is that the need to

resuscitate the moribund economies of Eastern Europe will prove such a competing claim on the Community's resources that they will be disadvantaged.

Joshua Ihora, Nigeria's ambassador in Brussels, where the EC has its headquarters, summed up these apprehensions. He is quoted as saying that while the historic bonds between a divided Europe were understood, the latest Lome aid offer represented the smallest percentage increase.

On a per capita basis, he added, the package so far offered to Hungary and Poland were appreciably greater. This reflected the feeling in ACP capitals that they would have to bear some of the cost of a disastrous political experiment.

While Ihora was voicing the ACP's "real concern," the latest summit of the nucleus of an Afri-

can Common Market was providing some grounds for optimism. The Preferential Trade Area (PTA) formed in 1981, now has 18 member-countries drawn from eastern and southern Africa.

The latest recruits are Sudan and Zaire, while Namibia is expected to join after becoming independent in about six months' time.

It is hoped that by the end of the century the PTA and the 16-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will come together to form a continent-wide common market. This would be the realisation of a long-standing dream among African political leaders.

At the PTA's latest heads of state meeting, staged in Nairobi, "significant" progress was reported in the grouping's integration plans. This programme includes the gradual reduction of

tariffs as well as other trade barriers between members, the creation of a monetary union and specialisation in industrial and agricultural production.

As one of the delegates told the meeting, the PTA should be part of Africa's answer to the Europe of post-1992 (when the EC is scheduled to become a single market).

He added: "As the European Community is turning more and more on itself and on Eastern Europe, we must expect less and less in European funds for Africa's development. Therefore, we must turn to integration for our economic survival."

As a potential free trade zone extending from Sudan in the north to Swaziland in the south, the PTA already covers more than half of sub-Saharan Africa — Lion Features.



I hope at least now you will stop defending communism and admit that only capitalism can give a decent, better living to the people!

Peking warning raises questions about Bush China policy

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Threats from Peking of retaliation for U.S. support of Chinese students raises new questions about President George Bush's policy of secret diplomacy with China after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The White House says high-level U.S. missions to Peking last July and December helped ease tensions between the two countries, but one Bush official refused to specify what the Chinese have done to show a turn towards democracy.

Moreover, a published threat last week that China will strike back against the United States for Bush's promise to let Chinese students remain here if they fear persecution at home did little to raise hopes of reforms in China.

Some foreign policy analysts believe the two secret visits by White House National Security

Adviser Brent Scowcroft sent the wrong signal and were taken by the Chinese as tacit approval for their actions, no matter what critical comments were made.

"High profile trips carry a terrible symbolism... I am very doubtful that the Chinese will make that kind of trip justified," former U.S. Ambassador to China Winston Lord said.

There was widespread public criticism of Bush when the secret visits — undertaken in spite of a ban on high-level contacts with China — were made public in December.

Secretary of State James Baker drew more fire for denying in a television interview that the July trip had occurred.

Lord, who left his Peking post last April, said the Chinese government would likely make only cosmetic moves towards democracy in light of the Bush administration's tepid responses to last

June's Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators by government troops.

Bush imposed sanctions on China to protest the crackdown, but later lifted curbs on U.S. export-import bank credits to China and on the launching of U.S.-built satellites by Peking, moves which prompted accusations of "kowtowing" to China.

For the part, the Chinese have made some conciliatory gestures, allowing the replacement of a correspondent of the U.S. government-funded Voice of America (VOA) radio who was expelled after the massacre.

There are also rumours in Washington that the two countries are nearing resolution of the case of Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi, who took refuge in the U.S. embassy after the massacre.

But a State Department official who declined to be named discounted the significance of a settlement in the Fang case, telling reporters Thursday: "A much greater concern to the United States is a set of human rights-related issues... affecting how students are treated."

The treatment of Chinese students has focused congressional criticism on Bush, who vetoed a bill to allow all Chinese students to remain in the United States after their visas expire. The president, however, promised to grant visa extensions to students who fear persecution if they return home.

The response from Peking was uncompromising. "The United States has violated a Sino-U.S. agreement on educational exchanges, and grossly interfered in our internal affairs," China's education chief Li Tieying said in a policy speech published last Wednesday.

"We will be forced to take necessary action (against the U.S. policy) at the appropriate time."

African leaders still seek elusive Angolan peace

By John Morrison
Reuters

LUANDA — African leaders are redoubling their efforts to bring peace to war-weary Angola, but each time they try to move forward their goal seems to slip further out of reach.

The latest bid to find an "African solution" to one of the continent's longest and bloodiest conflicts was due to begin Wednesday with a summit of eight African heads of state in the Angolan capital.

But only 36 hours before the start, the meeting was vetoed by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko who let it be known he was too busy to attend amid fresh signs of disagreements with Angola's Marxist authorities.

No new date has been fixed for the summit, which had already been postponed several times. It would not be the first time Mobutu has used the tactic of the "empty chair," perfected by the late French leader Charles de Gaulle, to remind others not to take him for granted.

Despite Mobutu's denials, Zaire is thought to be the main channel for U.S. aid worth an estimated \$50 million each year to National Union for the Total

Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels.

This alone makes him one of the key brokers in the efforts to end the 15-year-old war, a role formalised in his mediation between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

The Zairean president, using a mixture of guile and bluff, began the peace negotiations with a spectacular coup last June when he persuaded the two men to meet and shake hands in his palace of Gbadolite in front of a host of African leaders.

But the verbal agreement collapsed within weeks and Savimbi angrily disowned the terms he was supposed to have accepted at Gbadolite.

Since then fighting in southern Angola has intensified and six months of diplomatic manoeuvring seems only to have driven the two sides further apart.

They now seem to be wary not only of each other but also of Mobutu.

Dos Santos spoke for the first time in a Portuguese television interview last weekend of an "impass" in the talks, a word previously avoided by the Angolans.

For his part, Savimbi described

a new peace formula offered by Dos Santos on Dec. 30 as a step backwards.

The eight heads of state met last August and September without Savimbi, lining up behind the official Angolan version of what was agreed in Gbadolite.

The most controversial elements of this package were that Savimbi should withdraw from politics for an unspecified period and integrate his pro-Western guerrillas into the government, political and military system.

In recent weeks Dos Santos has dropped the demand that Savimbi should withdraw, saying there are "other possibilities" for him.

But he has flatly ruled out UNITA's demand for free elections and a multi-party system.

There has been further friction between Angola and Zaire over cease-fire proposals by Mobutu believed to involve the stationing in Angola of troops from other African countries.

These proposals have been accepted by UNITA but rejected by the Angolans as in breach of their sovereignty.

A call by Dos Santos in his television interview for the meeting to clarify and redefine his role as mediator may have made

Mobutu decide to pull out of the Luanda summit.

The so-called group of eight consists of Angola, Zaire, Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The African presidents, all of them with one-party states of their own to protect, are expected to stand behind Dos Santos in opposing UNITA's demand for a multi-party system as "un-African."

But Savimbi's slogan of free elections is topical, coming soon after the success of neighbouring Namibia's election under U.N. supervision.

It also coincides with the shock waves running through Africa from events in Eastern Europe where one-party rule has largely been discredited as a political system.

Dos Santos says his country, potentially one of the richest in Africa but now one of the poorest, is too backward to hold multi-party elections "at this historical stage."

Instead he has promised a "democratic opening" to other social forces outside the ruling party and said that independent candidates could stand in elections.

Afghanistan — ten years on

TEN YEARS after Soviet airborne troops landed in Kabul and deposed President Hafizullah Amin, a settlement of Afghanistan's political crisis seems to be as far off as ever. Although the last Soviet units left the country in mid-February, fighting between the Moscow-backed People's Democratic Party (PDP) government and its Mujahideen opponents continues unabated.

Between January and July 1989, another 100,000 Afghans fled their homes to join the five million refugees already living in exile in Pakistan and Iran.

The accord signed in April 1988, by the Soviet Union the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan provided for withdrawal of Soviet forces, and called for an end to hostilities. But it did not offer a means for peaceful transition from the Kabul government rule to a government acceptable to the whole of the Afghan people.

The Mujahideen guerrillas were not a party to the accord and still refuse to be bound by it.

Because the long years of war and foreign occupation have aggravated the divisions of Afghanistan's traditionally loose-knit society, the opposition parties face a hard task in creating a unified political organisation. But they are unanimous in rejecting any role in a future Afghan government for President Najibullah and other senior PDP figures who owe their power to the Soviet intervention.

They stress, however, that other individuals in the Kabul administration not directly responsible for the PDP's harsh rule could be acceptable partners.

Massive Soviet military and economic aid, and poor co-ordination among the guerrilla groups, has enabled the PDP to hold on to Kabul and other major towns. While offering to negotiate with the Mujahideen, Najibullah has also continued to insist, with Moscow's approval, that a solution to the conflict must be based on "the PDP, the present regime and the existing system."

Few Afghans have been persuaded by Najibullah's terms for "national reconciliation." His brutal record as chief of the regime's secret police, known as KHAD, is not forgotten.

An official admission in November that 11,000 political detainees died at KHAD's hands in 1978-79, just before Najibullah became its head, has been seen as an attempt to distance him from the PDP's earlier excesses. No figures for KHAD's victims in later years have been released, but they are believed to be even higher.

Senior members and officials of the regime continue to defect to the opposition parties.

In August the head of Najibullah's personal security staff, Major-General Mohammed Faruq Zafar, went over to the Hizb-Islami group. Other recent defectors have included a former minister of civil aviation, Pacha Gul Wafadar, who arrived in Pakistan early this month.

But the Soviet Union shows no sign of modifying its support for

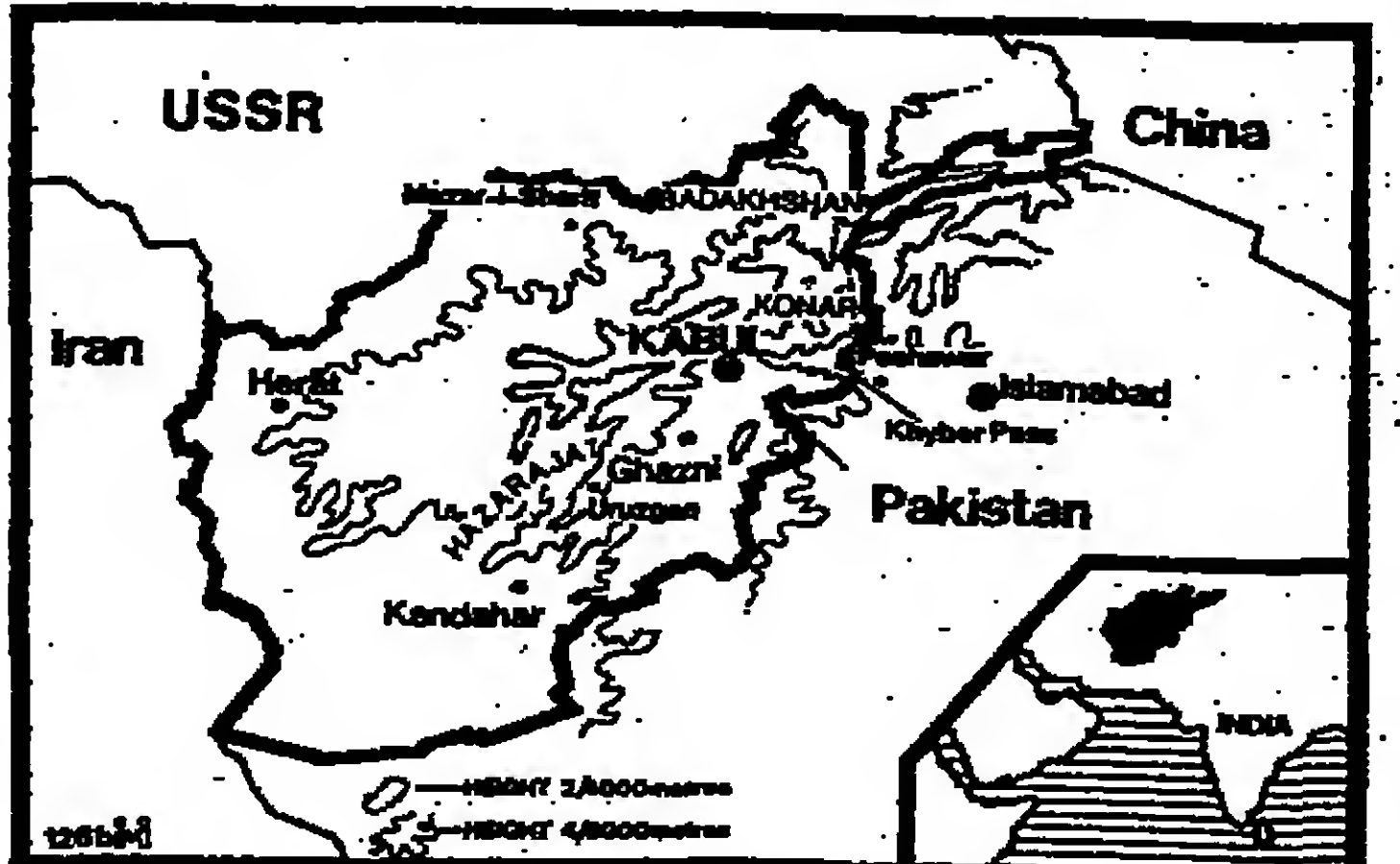
the PDP's claim to a dominant role in any new Afghan government, in contrast to Moscow's endorsement of radical changes in Communist states in Eastern Europe.

Military supplies to the Kabul regime, including heavy SCUD ground-to-ground missiles, are reportedly running at the rate of \$250 million to \$300 million a month.

Learning from their setbacks earlier this year, especially the failure of a full-scale assault on Jalalabad, the Mujahideen are now expected to look to a longer-term strategy of gradually tightening their pressure on the regime's supply lines and the provincial towns before turning their attention to the heavily-defended capital.

Meanwhile, they control over 80 per cent of the countryside and in some areas are already creating a new civil administration and helping the population to rebuild their lives.

In five northern provinces controlled by the guerrilla commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud, local shuras, or councils, are reviv-



ing commercial life, re-opening hospitals and schools, and setting up a network of village clinics. The massive need for reconstruction aid in Afghanistan was highlighted by the publication in November of a report by the United Nations Afghan aid co-ordinator, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan.

According to this, thousands of tonnes of food had been prepared for transporting into the country, but there was also a need for funds for road-building, education and anti-narcotics activities. Donor countries were urged to speed up the payment of their contributions to the aid programme. — Lion Features.

Garantis naturels... et lucratifs

Les sels de la mer Morte: une mine de projets

La mer Morte ne rime plus seulement avec poissade ou lecture de journal pendant la baignade. Les sels minéraux qu'elle renferme constituent un véritable trésor, que quelques hommes et femmes d'affaires jordaniens veulent aujourd'hui exploiter à grande échelle. Aux sels de bains que proposent principale-

ment deux sociétés, s'ajoutent des projets beaucoup plus ambitieux. Depuis les produits thérapeutiques ou les gammes de cosmétiques jusqu'à la construction de cliniques et d'hôtels. Objectifs principaux: conquérir les marchés occidentaux et développer le tourisme thermal. A l'instar des Israéliens.

Chlorures de potassium, de sodium, de magnésium, bromures, sulfates, calcium... Pour barbares qu'elle puisse paraître aux yeux de la chimie, la litière des sels minéraux, que recèle la mer Morte, n'a rien à envier à la cave d'All Babi. C'est du moins l'avis que partagent aujourd'hui une poignée de jeunes et enthousiastes entrepreneurs jordaniens.

El pour cause: la plupart de ces sels se trouvent dans des gisements naturels, et non pas dans une usine de traitement chimique. Une place de premier choix dans la fabrication de cosmétiques. Savoir qu'ils se trouvent en quantités énormes dans les eaux de la mer Morte, c'est déjà une première. La mer Morte est la source de la mer Morte, c'est-à-dire la source de la mer Morte. La mer Morte est la source de la mer Morte, c'est-à-dire la source de la mer Morte.

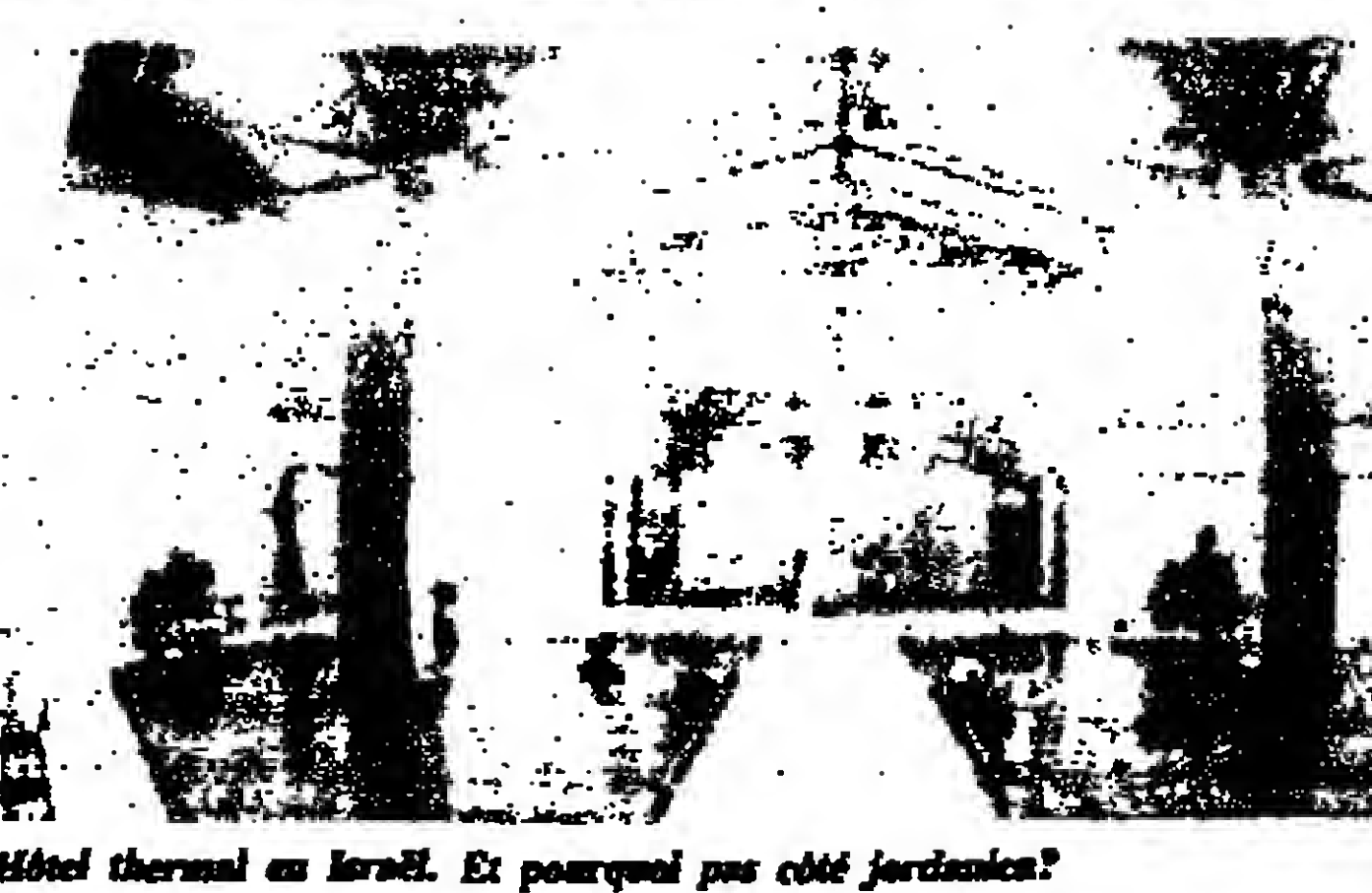
Raison principale d'une telle réussite: le faible coût de revient. "Nous achetons la matière première à la Compagnie arabe de potasse (APC), qui détient le monopole d'exploitation de la mer Morte", explique Nabil Hassan. Rejetée dans le processus de fabrication des cosmétiques, cette matière première se présente sous

forme de sel. "Nous l'achetons par évaporation naturelle puis nous la purifions dans notre usine de raffinage et de conditionnement, installée à Wadi Sir, maintenant jalousement protégée par des barrières de sécurité", selon sa co-présidente. "Mais je peux vous assurer que nos sels et cosmétiques sont entièrement naturels. Nous séparons simplement les minéraux les uns des autres pour avoir des produits très spécifiques auxquels nous ajoutons des essences de plantes, comme l'encens."

Qu'il s'agisse de "bains relaxants et anti-stress" ou de crèmes, "Zara" travaille principalement à l'image de



Flamme des sels de bains, Zara fait face à un nouveau et ambitieux concurrent: Zara.



Hôtel thermal en Israël. Et pourquoi pas côté jordanien?

"L'Europe, l'Amérique et, dans une moindre mesure, l'Asie constituent les marchés à conquérir. "Les Jordaniens croient souvent que les produits importés sont de meilleure qualité", estime Lama Abbasi, dont la société a choisi dans un premier temps de ne pas commercialiser ses produits de bonne note dans le royaume.

"La population ici est majoritairement pauvre. Les familles disposent rarement d'une baignoire. Enfin, les gens se disent qu'ils peuvent toujours aller se baigner dans la mer Morte", explique pour sa part Nabil Hassan, qui a emporté 150.000 dollars en 1989, en exportant 75% à 80% de sa production vers les pays du Golfe, l'Angleterre, l'Italie et le Japon.

Construire

Si les deux entreprises se tournent presque exclusivement vers l'étranger, elles espèrent profiter de la réputation des produits israéliens commercialisés depuis une vingtaine d'années, d'autres souhaitent attirer les touristes sur les rives de la mer Morte.

Ainsi du docteur Samah Kadri Yousef. Propriétaire d'un cabinet médical à Jérusalem, il rêve de se lancer dans le tourisme thermal. Un projet qu'il a cependant bien du mal à réaliser. A son retour en Jordanie en 1980, après un séjour de 23 ans en RFA, il avait proposé aux autorités de bâtir une clinique, une

EN BREF

Disparition. L'armée jordanienne a fait état dimanche de la "disparition" d'un soldat en possession de son arme individuelle. Peu après que l'abbé jordanien qui s'est de ses parents et amis dans l'après-midi qui suit le soldat jordanien dans le nord d'Israël. Deux israéliens s'étaient produits vendredi sur la ligne de cessez-le-feu entre les deux pays.

Escalade. Yasser Arafat a évoqué mardi au Caire la perspective d'une escalade de l'intifada, affirmant que le soulèvement palestinien atteindrait le stade de la "grève généralisée", puis celui de la "désobéissance civile totale". S'exprimant à la tribune de la conférence des travailleurs de Palestine, le chef de l'OLP a part ailleurs invité "les peuples arabes à soutenir l'intifada", estimant que "si la solution ne provient pas des réunions - au sommet, il doit provenir des peuples".

Dialogue. Le maire de Tel Aviv, Shlomo Labat, qui appartient au parti Likoud (droite) du premier ministre Yitzhak Shamir, s'est déclaré lundi en faveur de négociations entre Israël et l'OLP dans une déclaration publiée par le journal "Jerusalem Post". "Je suis favorable à un dialogue avec l'OLP. Je le dis sans équivoque: je suis pour parler avec quiconque peut faire avancer la paix, y compris Yasser Arafat lui-même", a-t-il affirmé, ajoutant que "parler avec l'OLP n'est pas un but mais un moyen de parvenir à la paix". M. Labat, qui avait déjà été rappelé à l'ordre dans le passé pour s'être dit en faveur d'un compromis territorial, a estimé que "M. Shamir parlera en fin de compte avec l'OLP" et qu'il n'y avait "pas d'alternative".

Lituanie. Mikhaïl Gorbatchev a achevé aujourd'hui une "visite de travail" de trois jours en Lituanie, où il a examiné la situation créée par la proclamation d'indépendance du Parti communiste local à l'égard de Moscou, en décembre dernier. Le numéro un du Kremlin, qui doit s'exprimer ce samedi devant le Comité central du PC lituanien, a entrepris ce voyage pour tenter d'obtenir de ses dirigeants qu'ils renoncent à leurs velléités d'indépendance. Velléités, qui pourraient sérieusement menacer l'unité de l'URSS.

Roumanie. Le ministre français des Affaires étrangères a quitté Bucarest hier à l'issue d'une visite officielle de heures, la première d'un chef de diplomatie occidentale depuis le renversement de Nicolae Ceausescu. Roland Dumas a été reçu par le président roumain Ion Iliescu, qui a déclaré "fier" d'être à Bucarest et que "la France, dès le premier jour, a été aux côtés du peuple roumain". M. Dumas était accompagné par le ministre français de l'Agriculture, qui avait annoncé mardi à Paris l'attribution d'une aide alimentaire d'urgence de 5 millions de francs (soit près de 900.000 dollars) à la Roumanie.

Déception. Les Etats-Unis se sont déclarés mardi mercredi par la réouverture de l'ambassade de France en Afghanistan. "Bien que les Français aient dit que cette décision n'avait pas de signification politique, elle est décevante parce que le gouvernement illégitime de Kaboul la présentera comme une manifestation de soutien", a estimé la porte-parole du département d'Etat, Margaret Tutwiler.

Sida. L'un des principaux spécialistes du sida en France, le professeur Willy Rosenberg, estime entre 75.000 et 250.000 le nombre de personnes chez lesquelles la maladie se déclarerait au cours de la décennie à venir dans l'Hexagone. Dans une interview, publiée mercredi par un quotidien régional, il a affirmé sur un ton alarmiste que "le pire est encore à venir". Le nombre de cas recensés dans le passé en France est de 1.000. Le nombre d'élèves actuellement à 8.025.

Angolaise. Une agence de voyage sicilienne propose depuis peu à ses clients de visiter l'Angola, un pays d'origine et d'angoisse. Les voyageurs doivent découvrir l'auteur d'un crime facile, interprété pour eux par un groupe de comédiens. Montant du séjour: 140 dollars. L'agence "Gatopardi" s'était déjà illustrée dans le passé en inaugurant les visites des "cimetières" de la mafia et la "tournee" des villages de ses chefs siciliens.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Festival Depardieu. Le centre culturel français présente tout au long du mois une série de films dont l'auteur français Gérard Depardieu est l'interprète principal. Cette semaine:

Rive droite, rive gauche, de Philippe Labro, avec Nathalie Baye et Carole Bouquet (1984). Un jeune et brillant avocat se retrouve mêlé à de sombres affaires, tout professionnelles que sentimentales... Centre culturel français, lundi 15 janvier à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

CONFERENCE

La Bamba, de Luis Valdez, avec Est Morales, Rosana de Soto et Elizabeth Peña. Fin des années 50: rares sont les adolescents américains qui ne rêvent pas de devenir une star du rock 'n' roll. La chance sourit à quelques uns, tel Ritchie. A 17 ans, il se retrouve vedette... Centre culturel français, jeudi 18 janvier à 19h00 (en français).

EXPOSITION

Poésie. Petit panorama de la poésie française et francophone, où se croisent 30 auteurs. Des grands contemporains (Césaire, Michaux, Ponge, Tardieu...) aux plus jeunes, encore méconnus. Centre culturel français, mercredi 17 janvier à 18h00 (en français).

CONCERT

Quintette. Le quintette allemand à vents Arminius de l'académie de musique Detmold interprète des œuvres de Mozart, Dandl, Rossini et Ligeti. Centre culturel français, mercredi 16 janvier à 20h00. (Prix des places: 5 dollars. Réservations au 6676226 ou 666000).

Décès de l'écrivain Hosni Fariz

De l'enseignant au poète

Avec la mort de l'écrivain jordanien Hosni Fariz a disparu l'un des piliers littéraires du royaume. Son décès, le 4 janvier dernier à l'âge de 83 ans, laisse une vide dans la culture nationale, à laquelle il a donné une trentaine de livres, recueils de poésies et pièces de théâtre.

Du jour et de nuit, Hosni Fariz a consacré sa vie à la littérature. Il est né en 1907, à Hama, dans le sud du royaume. Il a commencé à écrire à l'âge de 15 ans, sous le pseudonyme de "Hosni". Il a écrit plus de 30 livres, dont des romans, des poésies, des pièces de théâtre, des essais, des traductions, etc.

Né dans une région en complet dénuement, Hosni Fariz a fréquenté l'une des toutes premières écoles de la région. Il a obtenu en 1927 du ministère de l'Education une bourse pour l'université américaine de Beyrouth, où il termine des études d'histoire et de lettres.

De retour en Jordanie, il devient professeur et enseigne la littérature arabe ainsi que l'histoire et la géographie. Populaire parmi ses élèves, il s'engage dans la vie politique et sociale. Il est élu député en 1952, puis ministre de l'Education en 1957. Il est élu député en 1962, puis ministre de l'Education en 1962. Il est élu député en 1962, puis ministre de l'Education en 1962.

De l'enseignement, Hosni Fariz devient ensuite inspecteur d'Etat pour l'éducation, "un métier, auquel je ne comprenais absolument rien", dit-il plus tard. En 1962, il est élu député. Avant de revenir à l'enseignement de 1962 à 1963, en qualité de vice-ministre de l'Education. En 1968, il est élu député. En 1968, il est élu député. En 1968, il est élu député.

Une vraie vocation. "C'est que la vraie "carrière" d'Hosni Fariz est surtout celle d'un écrivain. Dès son plus jeune âge, il écrit en effet des poèmes. En 1938, il publie son premier recueil: une ode à l'amour. Sa vocation, comprend-il alors, est dans la littérature. Une écriture, qui va de la littérature aux articles politiques ou sociaux. "Comme je n'avais pas peur de la prison, je disais la vérité", déclarait-il encore peu avant sa mort.

Mais c'est surtout dans la poésie qu'il laisse sa plus profonde empreinte. Hosni Fariz illustre par une forte capacité à la synthèse, riche en harmonies stylistiques. On sent dans son œuvre les influences d'une culture littéraire, traditionnelle, et la religion. Une attitude, qui le pousse souvent à polémiquer avec les nouveaux poètes.

"Je ne crois pas à l'invention dans la poésie, expliquait-il, car le poète doit être construit de manière concrète et continue. Il doit puiser dans l'héritage des anciens. J'ai ainsi suivi le chemin qu'ils avaient ouvert, mais j'ai laissé à mes successeurs tout le loisir d'aller loin dans l'illumination. Tout poète devrait avoir une grande culture pour l'aider à plonger dans l'imagination et lui ouvrir les yeux sur le tangible et l'intangible. Là reside, selon moi, l'éternité des grands poètes."

Ce principe reste à la base de tous ses recueils, dont "Les Temples de l'amour" (publiés en deux parties en 1938 et 1966) ou encore "Mon Pays" (1954). Sa poésie transparaît également dans ses œuvres théâtrales, telles "Le Déluge", "Avec les Dieux sur l'Aéropole", "L'Amour se lève..."

Epris de culture, Hosni Fariz enrichit la littérature arabe de romans et de nouvelles, de contes pour enfants et de critiques littéraires. Il traduit par ailleurs des contes grecs et le poète indien Taghour.

On lui doit encore des livres publiés en anglais et des manuels scolaires.

Retour d'un hebdomadaire en anglais

Le nouveau "Star" est né

Plus de 16 mois après la fermeture du "Jerusalem Star", un nouvel hebdomadaire en anglais, le "Star", fait son apparition. A sa tête, la famille al-Sherif, principal actionnaire de l'ancien magazine. Le nouveau a choisi l'indépendance. Sortie du numéro un: jeudi prochain.

Nom: "Star"; qualité: hebdomadaire indépendant paraissant le jeudi. Particularité: premier magazine d'information en langue anglaise depuis la fermeture du "Jerusalem Star" en septembre 1988.

On parlait depuis longtemps de la renaissance sous un autre nom, légation sur la presse oblige, du "JSS". Certains y pensaient depuis le lancement du "Jerusalem Star" en 1966 dans la Ville Sainte, initiative de sa première résurrection à Amman en 1982 et, jamais deux sans trois, à l'origine du lancement du "Star".

Certains, tel son principal actionnaire, Mahmoud el-Sherif, fondateur du premier "Jerusalem Star" en 1966 dans la Ville Sainte, initiative de sa première résurrection à Amman en 1982 et, jamais deux sans trois, à l'origine du lancement du "Star".

"A défaut du titre, nous conservons les mêmes aspirations que dans le passé: faire du journalisme d'investigation et un vrai travail de professionnels", affirme Osama el-Sherif, directeur de la publication et de la rédaction du "Star". Le journal retrouve ainsi quelques fidèles, dont Ayman Safadi, ancien reporter au "JSS" et rédacteur en chef du nouvel hebdomadaire.

"La suppression du Jerusalem Star a été une décision stupide, fondée sur des dimensions internes entre les membres du comité directeur nommé en août 1988 par le Comité de sécurité économique", assure ce dernier. "On a avancé à l'époque des raisons financières, alors qu'en cinq ans d'exercice nous avions réduit notre déficit de 50.000 dollars à 5.000 à peine", rappelle Osama el-Sherif.

S'ils ont du mal à oublier le passé,

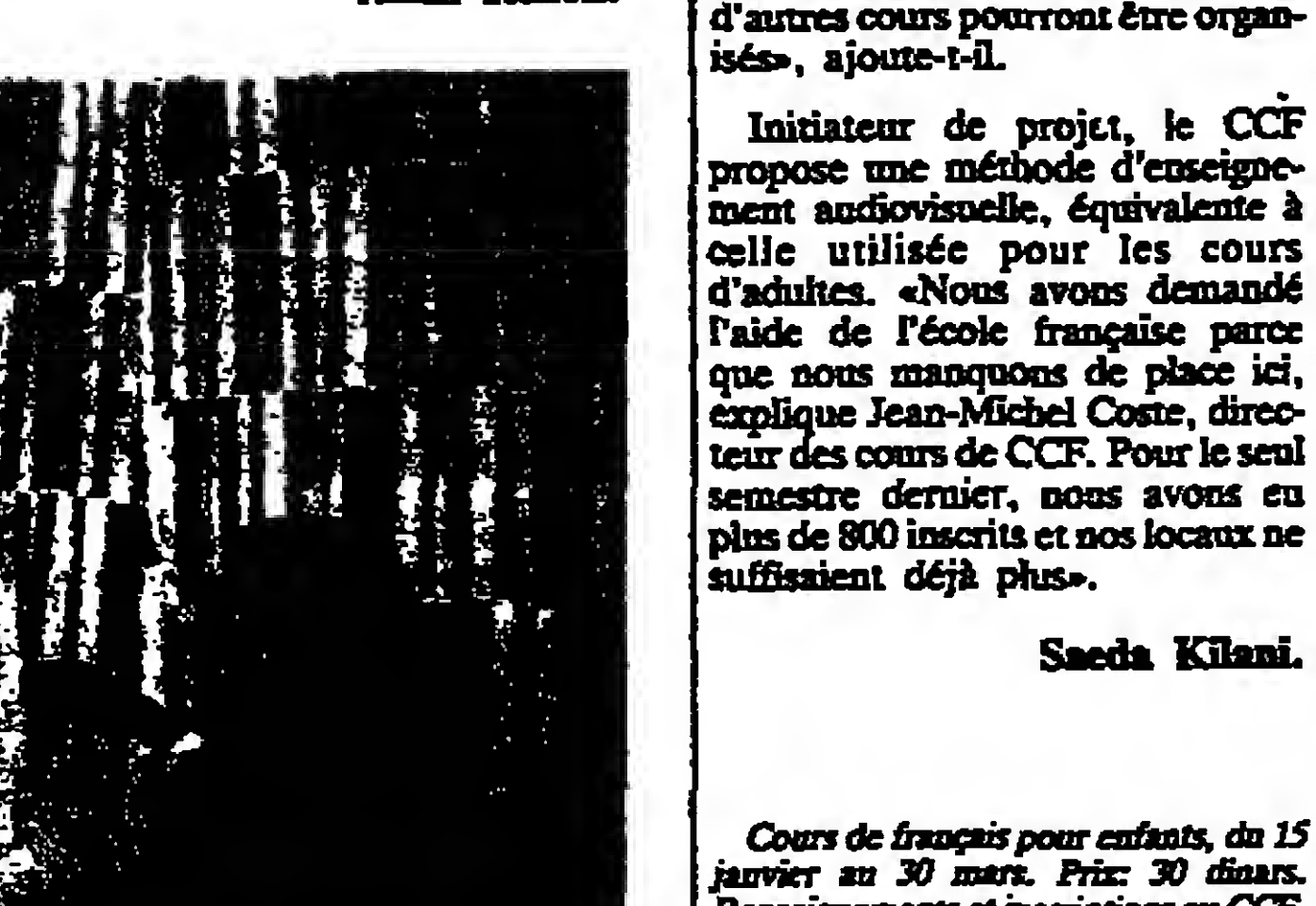
Nouveau Cours de français pour enfants

"Nous cherchons des journalistes à plein temps, expérimentés. Les pigistes en revanche ne manquent pas. Nous plus que les journalistes, nous recherchons des journalistes expérimentés, armés de leur plume et de leur expérience, pour couvrir les événements de la Fondation Shoman, le Dr Assad Abdou Rahman."

Objectifs principaux du "Star": être "un journal jordanien au service des Jordaniens", selon son directeur, qui veut d'abord "s'adresser aux intellectuels, étudiants, hommes d'affaires et artistes" du royaume. "C'est parce que nous voulons être un vrai médium, que nous ouvrons nos colonnes aux publicistes professionnels dans une rubrique "opinion" par exemple", poursuit Ayman Safadi.

Avec un tirage de 4.000 à 5.000 exemplaires des jeudi et un prix unitaire de 200 fils, le "Star" veut devenir un outil de communication indispensable avant de penser à faire des profits... et de réfléchir à de nouveaux projets.

Alain Remon.



Ayman Safadi (à gauche) et Osama el-Sherif: les deux piliers du "Star".

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Egypt's new dollar bonds sell slowly

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has sold only 11 per cent of new dollar bonds issued in November, but was optimistic they would eventually find buyers and create a new capital market, a senior Egyptian banker has said.

Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, deputy chairman of the National Bank of Egypt, said about \$50 million worth of bonds had been sold out of a total \$450 million available for subscription.

He told Reuters Egypt was keen to test the market and wait for individual buyers, rather than persuade big public sector banks to buy up the bonds.

"No public banks will go in and buy bonds. We want to leave room. It is a challenge to create a new market... it is a new concept in the creation of a capital market. To create a capital market takes time," he said.

The state-run National Investment Bank is offering the 10-year bonds to Egyptian and non-Egyptian investors with an issue price of 100 per cent and an interest rate of 0.5 per cent over LIBOR (London Inter Bank Offered Rate).

The plan is designed to channel savings, particularly of Egyptians working abroad, into investment in the country.

Aziz, a member of the committee responsible for the bonds, said money raised from the bonds would be used to finance projects which would generate foreign currency, like those in the export sector and tourism.

It was the first time since 1951 that bonds have been issued in Egypt for anything other than to raise government funds.

The government is near-bankrupt and has barely enough money to meet essential debt payments, let alone make new investments, foreign experts say. But there is still a lot of money around, which is failing to get channelled through into investment.

Aziz said the banking sector was liquid in dollars with about \$12 billion held on deposit, but few people want to run the foreign exchange risk of borrowing in dollars.

The dollar bond issue would mop up surplus dollars. People starting new projects could also use the bonds as a guarantee to borrow in Egyptian pounds.

Aziz said most bonds sales so far had been made locally. Egypt was also marketing the bonds in Gulf Arab states, hoping to attract savings of Egyptians working there along with local investors.

The bonds are exempt from any current or future taxes, and can be traded on the Cairo stock exchange after one year.

Aziz said they offered higher interest rates and greater flexibility than other instruments on the market. The highest available rate is about 1/4 or 1/16 per cent below LIBOR.

The bonds are guaranteed by the Central Bank of Egypt, with interest to be paid every six months.

Surveys analyse consumer tastes

NEW YORK (AP) — American consumer believe Mercedes and Kodak stand for top quality, although Volvo drivers are more loyal to their cars, a study of brand perceptions says.

Coke and Pepsi are dead even in terms of perceived quality, but the Pepsi generation seems more satisfied with its Cola. And while Toyota owners are among the most loyal of any brand-name devotees, the average American feels that Buick offers more quality.

Total Research Corp., a Princeton, New Jersey-based market research firm, surveyed consumers age 15 and older in 1,000 households for their attitudes on 91 brands in categories ranging from cars to candy bars.

The study of brand recognition and quality perception, also known as brand equity, found that Campbell Soup was the most recognised brand, with 98 per cent of those surveyed having some feeling about Campbell.

Hallmark greeting cards and McDonald's restaurants followed closely with 97 per cent recognition.

Mercedes and Kodak topped the list of perceived quality with an average rating of 84 from consumers with a feeling about the brands. The ratings are on a scale ranging from zero for poor or unacceptable quality to 100 equals extraordinary quality.

Other brands rating at or above 80 in perceived quality included Fisher-Price toys, Hallmarks, Levi's jeans and IBM personal computers.

But in the rank for perceived quality among users of a given brand, Volvo came out on top with a rating of 98, topping Mercedes at 94.

The survey also indicated strongly polarised views about Toyota. The Japanese carmaker came in third in quality ranking among brand users with a rating of 93. But among consumers who recognise the brands, Buick had a higher perceived quality rating than Toyota, 69 to 66.

Among other conclusions, Total Research said consumer response toward Advil showed strong growth potential, with a quality perception among users of the pain reliever higher than quality perceptions among consumers who recognise the brand.

Other brands with a similar growth profile included Volvo, ESPN sports cable network, Estee Lauder and Revlon Cosmetics, American Express, Fuji Film and Magnavox.

Kellogg's corn flakes showed the classic signs of a declining brand — highly recognised but average in perceived quality and lowly rates in user satisfaction.

Others showing a declining profile included Nestle's crumpled, Sears stores, Holiday Inns, Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance, Schick razors and Lipton soup.

Coke and Pepsi both made the top 10 of most recognised brands, but Pepsi drinkers gave their cola a quality rating of 88 while Coca-Cola drinkers rated their brand slightly lower at 85.

The survey also found that consumers still love International Business Machines, even if stock market investors don't. IBM per-

sonal computers ranked second behind Kodak in terms of consistency of consumers' quality ranking.

Another survey concluded that when it comes to introducing innovative products, Campbell Soup Co. leads American companies but falls short of the creative standards set by its major foreign competitors.

According to a survey of international corporate executives, Camden-based Campbell was rated the most innovative corporation in the United States for the fifth consecutive year in an annual "Innovative Survey" by group EFO Ltd, a market research company.

"They've not only put out new products, but significantly more," said Edward F. Ogiba, president of the Norwalk, Connecticut-based company, in releasing the survey.

Trailing Campbell were: Procter and Gamble Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio; Kellogg Co. of Battle Creek, Michigan; the Kraft general foods division of New York-based Philip Morris Co. Inc. and Quaker Oats Co. of Chicago, Illinois.

For the first time since the survey began in 1984, Pillsbury Co. of Minneapolis, a division of Britain's Grand Metropolitan PLC, failed to rank among the top 10 innovative companies, Ogiba said.

Campbell was cited for its Le Menu frozen dinners, which it introduced several years ago. In 1986, Campbell began working on its Souper Combo line of soup-and-sandwich meals for the microwave. The product was introduced nationally in 1989.

While Campbell was ranked no. 1 in the United States, it ranked fourth in international operations. Leading in that category were Nestle S.A., Unilever and Procter and Gamble.

"Interestingly, there are significant distinctions between a company's perceived innovativeness in the U.S. and in the global marketplace," said Ogiba.

Campbell sells about five billion cans of soup annually. Analysts recently have criticised Campbell for its slow entrance into the international marketplace and for its failure to gain an upper hand in the dry-soup market.

The survey found that about 90 per cent of all new products introduced fail — an all-time high.

"Just getting it out onto the shelves is a major accomplishment," said Hackney, who said about one in every 10 products is scrubbed during research.

At the same time, 47 per cent of the executives estimated that a larger percentage of their company's sales over the next five years will come from new products, according to the survey, which was cosponsored by Food and Beverage Marketing magazine.

The survey found that about 90 per cent of all new products introduced fail — an all-time

Coffee price declines to new 14-year low

LONDON (AP) — A glut of coffee sent the market price plunging to a 14-year low in London trading, and dealers said they expected it to fall more.

Coffee for March delivery slumped to \$612 (near \$1,010) a tonne Thursday, \$20 (\$33) below the previous 14-year low touched late last month and \$27 (\$44.55) down from Wednesday's closing level.

The big consumers were holding off buying, according to analysts at coffee trades E.D. and F. Man.

"It's the well-known story of too much coffee and doubts that the market's safety net can be restored quickly," one analyst said.

"The longer-term view is even more pessimistic, with expected good crops from April onward from Indonesia and Brazil and

the continuous offer of coffee from West Africa," he said.

The London market trades in Robusta-type coffee, which is traditionally cheaper than the higher quality Arabica variety grown throughout Latin America.

Arabica prices are also depressed, but remain above their 14-year lows touched last October.

Both markets plunged then, following the decision of the 74-nation International Coffee Organisation in July to abandon its market-support role indefinitely. Its safety-net for prices of export quotas was suspended.

Supplies of Arabica have been tightened by recent frosts in Mexico's coffee-growing region and the decision of Central American producers to keep 15 per cent of their current crop off the market to help stabilise prices, traders

said.

There are also delays to shipments of Arabica from Colombia, El Salvador and Nicaragua and prospects of a worse than expected Brazilian Arabica crop, according to Man.

Brazil grows mainly Arabica, but also Robusta.

Informal consultations among producing and consuming countries on restoring the coffee organisation's quota system have so far made little progress, according to experts at West German coffee specialists F.O. Licht.

Producer and consumer officials said Thursday they expected no breakthrough on the issue when the two sides meet in London Jan. 16-17 for what promises to be a routine meeting of the coffee organisation's 16-nation executive board.

They said hopes of quick action may have been set back by differences between Colombia and the United States over Washington's decision to station warships off the Latin American nation's coast in an attempt to intercept drug shipments.

The United States and Colombia — respectively the world's biggest consumer and the second-largest producer of coffee — have so far been at the forefront of efforts to restore the coffee organisation's quota system.

France eases investment regulations

PARIS (AP) — The government has unveiled plans to ease rules on foreign investment in France by groups from outside the 12-nation European Community.

The obligatory treasury ministry review of planned investments by non-Community companies will now be limited to one month, government spokesman Louis Le Penec said after the weekly cabinet meeting. No time limit previously existed. Failure by the treasury to reject a proposal within 30 days will mean the project can automatically go forward.

The new measure concerns only the acquisition of French companies by groups outside the Community.

Foreign investments in U.S. reach \$373b

NEW YORK (R) — Foreign direct investment in the United States is believed to have surged by about \$66 billion last year, surpassing the previous record rise of \$58 billion in 1988, the Association of International Investment said Thursday.

The lower value of the dollar against the Japanese yen and the Deutschmark has made U.S. assets cheaper for foreign investors, who are expected to further antagonise American nationalists by buying even more U.S. assets this year.

"There is every reason to believe that foreign investment will continue to grow at a rapid pace in 1990," said the association's corporate secretary, Brad Lars-

chan.

The Washington-based trade body said total foreign investment in the first three quarters of 1989 rose by \$43.9 billion, 24 per cent faster than a year earlier, bringing total foreign investment to \$372.7 billion at the end of the third quarter.

The higher foreign profile has disgruntled many Americans, who have seen foreigners eager to grab a foothold in one of the world's most stable markets by investing in prized assets such as New York's Rockefeller Centre.

But although Japan is widely seen as the main outside threat to U.S. business, Europeans continue to invest more than the United States than anyone else.

Britain led the surge with \$19.7 billion invested in the first three quarters, bringing their total investments in the United States to \$121.6 billion. Japan followed with a \$5.4 billion increase, to \$58.76 billion, it said.

This was a slowdown in Japanese investment from 1988 but the trade body, made up of U.S. subsidiaries of foreign firms and U.S. multinationals, said lagging data may be to blame.

Dutch, Canadian and West German investors followed Britain and Japan as the main investors in U.S. assets.

At the same time, U.S. foreign debt widened by \$52.6 billion in the nine-month period to \$381 billion — far above the \$108 billion debt of Brazil, the world's second largest debtor.

"These figures represent the continuing effects of the U.S. budget and trade deficits," said the association's chairman Elliot Richardson, a former commerce secretary.

Meanwhile, cautious U.S. companies are trimming back their investment plans for 1990, but consumers are still spending steadily, the government said in reports that indicate a mixed economy at the end of 1989.

A survey of business conducted in October and November showed they expect to invest 4.9 per cent more for capital improvements in 1990 after spending 8.5 per cent more this year, the Commerce Department said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Kuwait agrees to invest in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Kuwait have agreed to set up a \$500 million holding company which will control joint investment, Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki has said. Sedki, quoted by national newspapers, said Kuwait also agreed to take part in planned reclamation of 400,000 acres of land. The Egyptian prime minister was quoted as saying Kuwait would contribute \$200 million for the farming scheme, estimated to cost a billion pounds (\$380 million). The United Arab Emirates agreed last year to provide funds for the reclamation of 150,000 acres of land as part of Egypt's drive to cut its dependence on imported food. Studies would also be conducted for other Kuwaiti investments in Egypt worth \$150 million covering farm, industrial and tourism projects.

IDB lends Dhaka \$10 million

NICOSIA (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has agreed a \$10 million foreign trade credit for Bangladesh to finance the import of urea fertiliser from an IDB member.

USSR buys Iraqi transformers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has signed its first contract to supply the Soviet Union with 2,000 electric power transformers, the government weekly magazine Alef-Ba has reported. It said the \$6 million contract was part of a plan to export \$25 million worth of electrical products to the Soviet Union and other countries.

Japan car imports increase by 35%

TOKYO (AP) — Japan imported a record 182,168 cars, trucks and buses in 1989, 35.2 per cent a year earlier, reflecting domestic business prosperity, the Japan Automobile Importers' Association has said. It was the fourth consecutive year of increased imports, said Ken Kano, an association official. Passenger car

imports totalled 180,424, up 35.1 per cent from 1988, and the foreign car market share in Japan grew from 3.8 per cent in 1988 to 4.5 per cent in 1989, Kano said. A total of 5.56 million Japanese cars, trucks and buses were sold in Japan in 1989, up 11.9 per cent from a year earlier, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association says. Kano said the imported passenger cars sold in Japan included 120,293 from West Germany, up 31.3 per cent; 19,084 from the United States, up 31.5 per cent; 14,519 from Britain, up 48.3 per cent; 10,487 from France, up 70.4 per cent; 4,504 from Italy, up 8.3 per cent and 9,753 from Sweden, up 44.8 per cent, all compared with 1988.

ENI expects \$1b Soviet deals

MOSCOW (R) — Italian state-owned energy group Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) expects to finalise with the Soviet Union soon a series of deals worth more than \$1 billion. The deals would call for ENI to supply industrial plant, machinery, goods and services during the 1991-95 Soviet five-year plan. "This is such an enormous amount that it is difficult to imagine," ENI President Gabriele Cagliari told a news conference in Moscow. ENI is already involved in several Soviet projects, including oil and gas extraction in western Siberia and the construction of two petrol stations in Moscow and a plant to make additives for lead-free petrol in Lithuania.

Iran, Turkey sign transport accord

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and Turkey have signed protocols regulating transportation and communication links between the two countries, the Islamic Republic News Agency has reported. The broadcast said the agreement will govern land, sea and air transportation between the two countries, as well as postal and communication exchanges. Under the protocol, Turkey will issue 9,000 transit passes to Iranian trucks en route to Europe, and Turkish ports on the Black Sea will be used to transship Iranian goods. More transit passes will be issued for Iranian trucks if required, the news agency said. It said Iran and Turkey also agreed to establish passenger railway lines between Tehran and Istanbul.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, January 11, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	113.0	114.1
U.S. dollar	650.0	656.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.3	451.8
Pound Sterling	1079.5	1090.3	Dutch guilder	340.8	344.2
Deutschmark	384.4	388.2	Swiss franc	105.6	106.7
Swiss franc	427.5	431.8	Italian lira (for 100)	51.6	52.1
			Belgian franc (for 10)	184.8	186.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6615/25	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1565/75	Canadian dollar	
	1.6840/47	Deutschmarks	
	1.8985/95	Dutch guilders	
	1.5053/45	Swiss francs	
	35.27/31	Belgian francs	
	5.7300/50	French francs	
	1254/1255	Italian lire	
	145.30/40	Japanese yen	
	6.1325/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.5000/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.5225/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	413.60/414.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A spurt of late buying carried the market to a sharply higher close after a day of solid demand from local and overseas investors. The All Ordinaries index closed up 17.8 at 1,713.7.

TOKYO — Investor nervousness in a climate of ever-sagging bond prices, a weakened yen and political uncertainties drive prices sharply down at the close. The Nikkei index fell 653.36 to 37,516.77.

HONG KONG — Prices closed lower in thin trading, with most traders away from the market before the weekend. The Hang Seng index lost 19.58 to 2,835.94.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed easier across the board, but above the day's lows in active trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 6.90 points to end at 1,559.17.

BOMBAY — The Bombay stock exchange was closed for trading to enable brokers to settle pending business. Trading resumes Monday.

FRANKFURT — West German shares slumped off opening highs to close mixed. The DAX index closed at 1,855.66, off 0.17 points from Thursday's close.

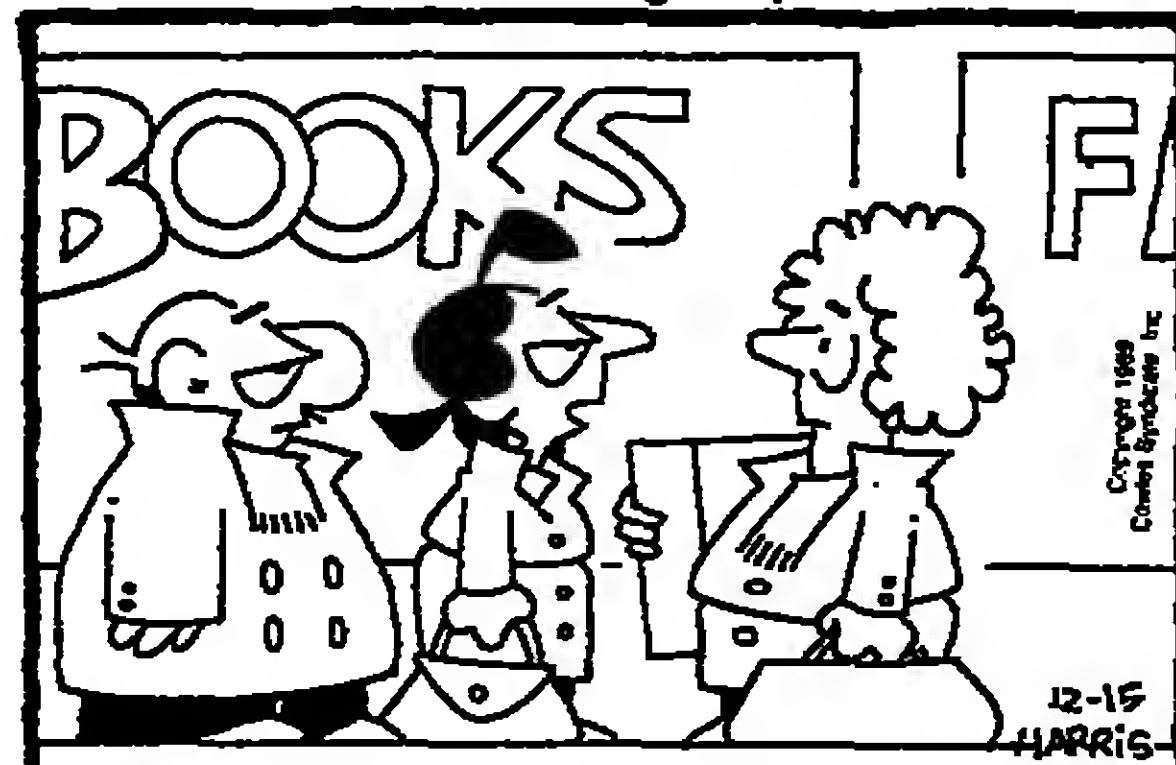
ZURICH — Shares came off early highs to end lower after sharp losses in Tokyo and negative trends in London and other European markets. The SPI index was down 5.5 at 1,152.2.

PARIS — French share prices closed sharply lower after Wall Street's early slide triggered heavy selling of most blue chips. The CAC-40 index ended 24.24 points down at 1,968.65.

LONDON — Shares were off day's lows. Light buying for new account did not counter negative sentiment generated by Wall Street's losses. At 1627 GMT FTSE was 37.3 points at 2,380.6.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were sharply lower at midday with the Dow 30 Industrials index a few points above the session lows. The Dow was down 44 points at 2717.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"Stanley can't go in the pet store. Somebody thought he was a cross between a St. Bernard and a basset hound."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KEHRI

LAMDY

RAKNEC

DABBIE

Answer: _____

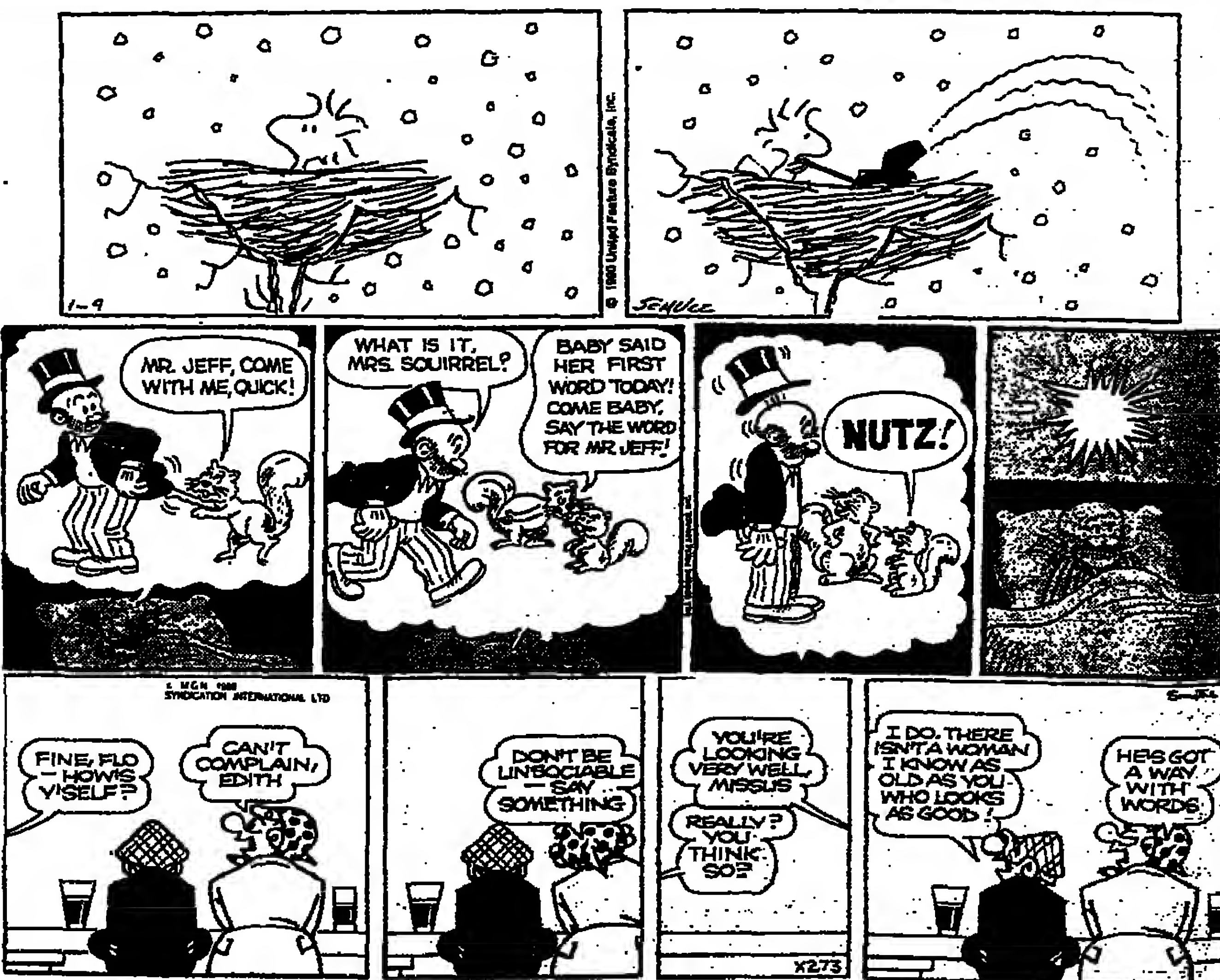
Yesterday's Jumbles: WHISK COUGH GENTRY UNHOOK

Answer: In order to please his wife, he reluctantly agreed to go there—OUT OF HIS "WEIGHT"

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



Gorbachev wades into Lithuanians with unity theme

VILNIUS (Agencies) — Campaigning Western-style for unity, President Mikhail Gorbachev travelled into the Lithuanian heartland Friday, expanding his mission to persuade the independence-minded Baltic republic to stay in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet president waded into the crowds and spoke out energetically against Lithuania's attempts to secede when he arrived Thursday. But he also announced that a law permitting republics to secede was being drafted in Moscow.

Most Lithuanians greeted Gorbachev with warm smiles and handshakes, but were unmoved by his pleas for unity. About 300,000 Lithuanians jammed the central square of Vilnius late Thursday in a candlelight demonstration for independence.

The main goal of Gorbachev's three-day visit is to persuade the Lithuanian Communist Party to reverse its decision last month to break with the national party. It is probably the most serious political crisis he has faced in nearly five years in power.

Details of the proposed secession law were not made public, but Gorbachev indicated in comments to a group of Lithuanian intellectuals Thursday night that a republic-wide referendum would be required for secession. "To secede by a show of hands is not serious. Let the people choose," Gorbachev was quoted as saying, according to Lithuanian television correspondent Eduardas Potesinskas.

On Thursday, one man called out that the "people must decide their own fate."

Gorbachev replied: "Nothing will be decided without you. We will decide everything together." However, the president added a warning: "Remember, if someone succeeds in putting us against each other in a clash, there will be a tragedy. We should not allow this."

Gorbachev didn't elaborate on

what such a tragedy might be. But in his remarks to the intellectuals, Gorbachev warned there would be chaos if republics began trying to secede from the Soviet Union.

"You may take this complicated road (of secession), and then other republics will start dividing among themselves, and then Poland might remember what used to belong to it," he said, referring to Poland's possession of parts of Lithuania before World War II.

Under Josef Stalin, the Soviet Union annexed Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in 1940 as part of a secret agreement with Nazi Germany.

Lithuania, the southernmost of the Baltics, is about 960 kilometres west of Moscow.

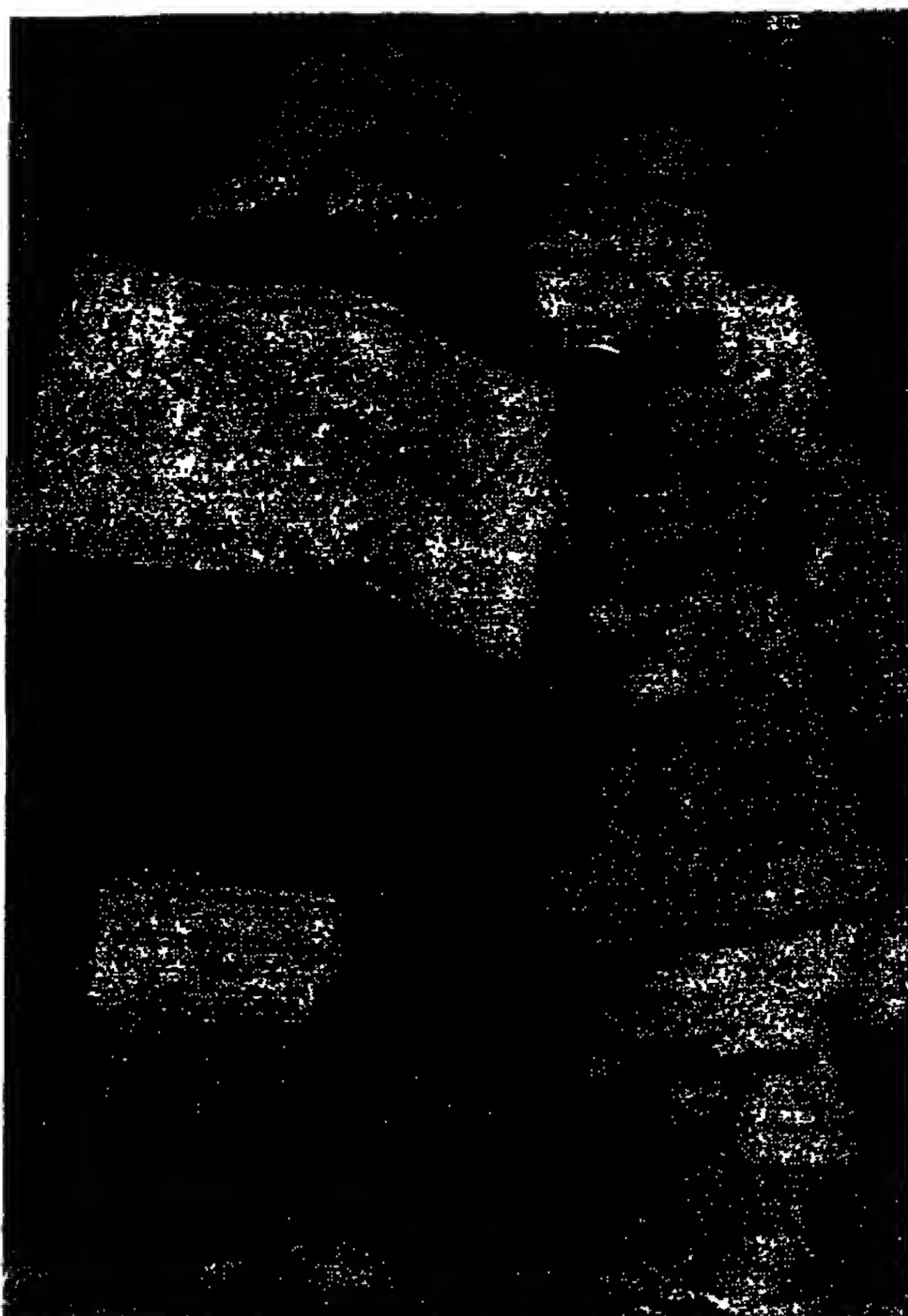
Soviet officials have said they will not use force to keep Lithuania and its 3.7 million residents in the Soviet Union. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told the British Broadcasting Corporation last week the Kremlin would use only "political means" to prevent a breakup.

Gerasimov told Britain's Independent Television News that the secession law was being designed to protect everyone's interests, presumably including the Soviet Union as well as ethnic minorities living in Lithuania.

"You must think about the interests of the other party too, so there must be mechanism for divorce, so to say," Gerasimov said in Vilnius.

When Gorbachev met with Communist Party members in Vilnius on Thursday, an estimated 300,000 pro-independence demonstrators rallied in the shadow of a cathedral once closed by atheist Soviet authorities.

The square was a mass of colour at the twilight rally, with the red, yellow and green of hundreds of flags of a free Lithuania joined by flags symbolising independent Estonia, Latvia, Georgia, Armenia, Moldavia and the Ukraine.



Two Lithuanian girls carry a banner asking for freedom for Lithuania on the eve of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the republic

gria, Armenia, Moldavia and the Ukraine.

The strains of violins and patriotic hymns filled the air along with the smell of burning candles carried by demonstrators. The crowd grew quiet for a brief commemoration for the tens of thousands of Lithuanians who suffered in the Soviet takeover. Then, the people broke out in song again.

One of Gorbachev's closest allies, fellow politburo member Alexander Yakovlev, was quoted Monday as saying that Lithuania's demand for independence might cause a "domino effect," encouraging Communists in other republics to break from Moscow.

Demands for greater indepe-

ndence already have been made by the two other Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia, and by people in the southwestern republics of Moldavia, bordering Romania, and Azerbaijan, which borders Iran.

Gorbachev told Lithuanians that the rights of all minorities in the Soviet Union must be respected or the nation of more than 100 ethnic groups may unravel.

Yet he appeared to be more accepting of the strident Lithuanian calls for independence. In the past, he has condemned them as "separatists."

"I am for self-determination all the way to secession," he said, according to Potesinskas.

China imposes new restrictions

BEIJING (R) — China Friday published stringent new rules on demonstrations in Beijing, reinforcing its defences against possible unrest one day after martial law was lifted.

Authorities have also drawn up new regulations saying what foreign journalists can and cannot do. The official media gave no indication of what they were, but said they would be promulgated soon.

The activities of foreign journalists were severely curtailed during nearly eight months of martial law in the capital.

The Beijing Daily, mouthpiece of the capital's municipal Communist Party leadership, said on its front page that permission for any demonstration or assembly in certain sensitive areas of the capital must be obtained from the city or national government.

"Of course nobody will be granted permission for any kind of protest," said one Chinese official writer. "This is a ban."

The newspaper said the sensitive areas included Tiananmen Square, the Zhongnanhai compound where China's leaders live and work and central government offices together with their immediate surroundings to a distance of 300 metres.

The rule also affects unspecified military installations. "The

Central Military Commission can inform people where the important military installations are," the newspaper said.

The end regulations heighten a ban on demonstrations in Beijing without prior permission, imposed last month. That decree stipulated that would-be demonstrators get permits from their local public security bureau — a lower level of authority than now required.

Premier Li Peng Wednesday announced the end of martial law, in force here since May 20 last year, and at midnight that night troops and armed police marched off Tiananmen Square.

But the People's Armed Police were placed on top alert throughout the capital. Plainclothes security men mingled with swelling crowds in Tiananmen and suppressed sporadic acts of defiance.

Tiananmen Square was the focal point of mass student-led protests from mid-April until troops and tanks crushed them with heavy loss of life on June 4.

Crowds of sightseers, many from outside Beijing, strolled on Tiananmen's 40 hectares of concrete paving Friday in bright sunshine but with severe frost and icy winds. Security agents kept a watchful eye on them.

Call gains momentum for Khmer Rouge trial

SYDNEY (R) — The Australian government, prime mover of a Cambodian peace plan now gaining international support, said Friday there were many legal obstacles to bringing Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot to trial on charges of genocide.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said, however, that Australia would continue to explore ways to bring Khmer Rouge leaders to justice, but would also ensure that the case against them would stand up in a world court.

Pol Pot and his deputies have been blamed internationally for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during their three-year rule from 1975.

The spokesman was commenting on mounting domestic pressure to take International Court action against the Khmer Rouge leaders, whose faction is a dominant force in a coalition holding the Cambodian seat in the United Nations.

"Australia continues to regard the proposal of bringing Pol Pot to court on charges of genocide as an attractive one and we continue to explore ways of implementing

it," the spokesman told Reuters.

Australia's conservative opposition said Friday it would initiate international action against the Khmer Rouge leaders if it won the federal election, due before mid-May.

The opposition has an even chance of winning the elections against the Labour Party, according to latest public opinion polls.

Opposition foreign affairs spokesman Robert Hill said a liberal-national government would ensure the Khmer Rouge leaders played no role in a future Phnom Penh administration.

On Thursday the Australian section of the International Commission of Jurists, a Geneva-based human rights body of lawyers, called for the "Pol Pot Khmer Rouge leadership and hierarchy" to be put on trial as part of the Australian peace proposal.

Commission lawyer Daniel Breznjak, who has just returned from Cambodia, told reporters the Khmer Rouge leadership should be brought before a widely accepted world tribunal to destroy its credibility.

Indian tribals seek homeland

NEW DELHI (AP) — Leaders of four million tribesmen have vowed to return to their fight for a northeastern homeland after government officials rejected their demand for autonomy.

In one of the lesser-known conflicts in India, in a remote area of Assam state were foreigners are barred, the Bodos have been fighting a guerrilla war since March 1987 to preserve their culture and heritage.

"There can be no compromise in our demand for a homeland," said Bodo leader Upendra Kumar Bharna, a 30-year-old law student. "At least 5,000 people have died in our campaign. How can we give it up now?"

Tribal leaders say 100,000 Bodos have been left homeless in the bush war — which has been waged by the tribesmen with bows and arrows, bombs and guns — and that 3,000 have been imprisoned.

Assam's chief minister, Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, said the demand of the tribal leaders, who met with state and federal government officials Thursday in New Delhi, could not be met. "It is not just possible," he said. "We cannot go on dismembering states to make new states."

The four million Bodos, mostly farmers of Mongol origin, have been demanding a separate homeland on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, a hilly region of northeast India which borders Bangladesh and Bhutan. The separate state — to be called Bodoland — would cover one-third of Assam's territory of 78,438 square

kilometres. According to Bodos who attended Thursday's meeting, 98 per cent of their fellow tribespeople follow the Bathou religion, in which they worship spirits, who are believed to be embodied in trees and rocks. They claim they are discriminated against by the Assamese, who are mostly Hindus.

The 16 Bodo leaders, some wearing peaked caps, arrived for the meeting in taxis. Assam government ministers came in cars guarded by rifle-toting security men. The Bodos were screened for weapons by a metal detector.

In a letter to Prime Minister Singh, the Bodos said the Assam government was bent on "annihilating" the tribes. "Mass arrest, brutal torture, and molestation of womenfolk has become a routine work for the Assam police," the letter said.

The Assam government denied the charges. Assam's police chief S.V. Subramaniam, said the insurgency claimed 395 lives last year, including 236 civilians, 102 Bodo militants, 41 Assam policemen and 16 Assam government officials. Bodo militants carried out 395 attacks on Assam police, and they fired back on 333 occasions, he said.

The Bodo homeland issue had been simmering for more than 20 years, but there were few reports of violence until it took a bloody turn in March 1987 when Bodos raised guerrilla groups and started attacking Assam police patrols.

Nabbing 'deps' — Japan policewoman's forte

By Vibeke Laroi Reuters

TOKYO — A plain clothes police officer grabs a pickpocket on a packed Tokyo subway and waves a rescued wallet before a group of admiring commuters.

All eyes gaze at a Japanese rarity — a policewoman. Jeans-clad Kazuyo Motoki, 36, coolly clasps handcuffs on the pleading thief as he mimes scratches from her fingernails. The handcuffs came from her small pink cosmetics bag.

Motoki, a mother of two, is the only woman in the detective department at Tokyo's Shibuya district police headquarters.

A black belt in judo, Motoki has been a policewoman for 17

years and has earned the somewhat grudging respect of male colleagues in what is still very much a man's world.

"She is more like a man in many ways. That's why she's such a good detective," said Osamu Yamura, deputy chief at the Shibuya police station.

But even for a much-commended detective, some chores remain women's work in Japan. Motoki is often found serving coffee and tea to the 60 people who work on her floor.

"When it comes to tea, women are not yet equal to men in Japan. It is one tradition that will take a long time to break," she said.

Of the 452 employees at the Shibuya station, 22 other than Motoki are women — 15 con-

'Coup fever' in Philippines as rebels outline objectives

MANILA (R) — The Philippine armed forces chief dismissed widespread speculation about a new army mutiny as "coup fever" but a renegade ex-brigadier said President Corason Aquino would be ousted and a military-civilian ruling council set up.

Chief-of-Staff General Renato de Villa said in a late night television interview Thursday that the rebels did not have the capability to mount a fresh coup for the moment, and appealed to the media to treat coup rumours with restraint.

He vowed to hunt down fugitive rebel leaders "one by one."

Several Manila newspapers Friday published accounts of a meeting with a senior rebel leader who is on the government's most-wanted list. Ex-Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina outlined plans to set up a joint military-civilian ruling council after toppling Aquino.

He said during an interview in a safehouse outside Manila that the rebels would root out corruption in government and the military, bring in a fairer administration and backed the phase-out of U.S. military bases from the country after 1991.

"We have the capability and the sincerity to reorient and change the system," he was quoted as saying by the Manila

Standard. "There is much inefficiency, graft and corruption." "There is no chance for the majority of Filipinos to rise in social status. We are looking for the right people to lead this country," Abenina said.

Following a successful coup d'etat, the country would be run by three military officers and four to six civilians in a governing council that would cut government spending, make the economy more self-reliant and trim the size of the armed forces to 80,000 from their present level of 165,000.

He said the U.S. intervention in favour of Aquino during the last coup attempt from Dec. 1-7 had made some of the young rebel officers hate Washington.

He said they would follow "an independent foreign policy, especially from the U.S."

But he said they would not demand the immediate withdrawal of U.S. military bases from the country. Instead they supported the idea of U.S. help in converting the bases to civilian use and helping the 77,000 Filipinos now employed on them to get other jobs.

Chief-of-staff de Villa said the rebels did not have the military force to mount a successful attack so soon after the December rebellion, the sixth against Aquino

in almost four years. But he said the military was on the look out for rebel moves to try to recruit more support. He told the media to treat coup rumours carefully.

"Our papers for instance are full of coup stories every day, and there seems to be a coup fever going. It is the most interesting topic of conversation on almost every occasion, social or otherwise," de Villa declared.

Abenina said the three military officers who would help run the junta were cashiered ex-Lieutenant-Colonel Gregorio Honasan, former air force Brigadier-General Jose Maria Zume and Abenina himself.

Abenina was quoted as saying he had helped bridge differences between Honasan, leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) which helped topple former President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, and Zume, leader of forces still loyal to the Marcos camp.

Aquino's National Security Adviser Rafael Iletto admitted Wednesday that the rash of coup rumours floated by the rebels were confusing government intelligence agencies.

He said the rebels may launch a new coup attempt, but it was doubtful they would succeed.

Greeks stage protest amid reports of unrest in Albania

ATHENS (AP) — More than 10,000 people rallied Thursday in Athens to protest Albania's treatment of ethnic Greeks, and a newspaper reported that the hardline Communist leadership of Albania imposed a state of emergency on a northern city.

The report of unrest in Shkoder, Albania's second largest city, could not be confirmed. An Albanian diplomat in Vienna called the report by the Yugoslav daily Politika an "absurdity" that is part of "an angry smear campaign" against his country. Albania is the last bastion of Stalinism in Eastern Europe.

Black-robed bishops and Albanian emigres led the Athens rally, which coincided with the anniversary of the founding of the Communist state in Albania in 1946.

"I am warning the Tirana regime that the policy it has followed up to now will lead to international isolation and certain collapse," said Archbishop Seraphim, primate of the Orthodox Church of Greece.

Seraphim also told the rally that "the criminals who have acted against our brothers in northern Epirus may rest assured they will not go unpunished."

Feelings have run high between Greece and its northern neighbour since 1916, when the province of northern Epirus was incorporated in Albania.

The Greek church claims that the Greek minority in Albania numbers about 400,000 and is not allowed to move freely, to practice religion and to study Greek in school.

Albania, which has a population of three million, contends the Greek minority does not exceed 60,000.

In Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the state-run Politika newspaper said the state of emergency was imposed to quell popular unrest in Shkoder.

The Yugoslav report said "a group of young people tried to organise demonstrations passing leaflets" late last year in Shkoder. Five people were executed, it claimed.

The Belgrade newspaper did not give the source of its information, say when the state of emergency was introduced or give any other details on the reported order. Albania is closed to most foreigners, and it was impossible to verify the claims in the newspaper report.

Albania has resisted the re-

forms sweeping the rest of the region. It has sharply restricted travel, and its secret police monitor contacts with foreigners.

Borders and beaches are patrolled by Albanian troops to prevent escapes. The Greek church claimed in December that four ethnic Greek Albanians were tortured and killed last year after failing to escape to Greece.

The Greek Foreign Ministry has questioned the validity of an Albanian videotape purporting to show three of the four brothers celebrating the new year, after the Greek charges d'affaires in Tirana was prohibited from visiting the brothers.

Elias Lekkas, who fled Albania in 1982, said in an interview that anyone caught trying to escape from the Balkan state was jailed for 25 years, or "if he or anyone else in his family has tried to escape before, he is executed."

He said those condemned to death were hanged in town squares and their bodies left hanging as a warning.

Lekkas, 50, said that he lived in a concentration camp with his family from infancy until his escape, because his father had been proclaimed an "enemy of the party."

Computer 'worm' disguised itself, expert tells court

SYRACUSE, New York (AP) — The "worm" programme that paralysed a nationwide computer network in November 1988 was designed so its victims would not know how they were being attacked, a computer expert testified Thursday.

Robert T. Morris' rogue programme used several methods to worm its way into the Internet network, said Keith Bostic, a programme analyst at the University of California at Berkeley.

"It was designed to break into as many computer systems as quickly as possible and escape detection as it was doing so," Bostic said on the second day of testimony in Morris' computer tampering trial in U.S. district court.

Morris, 25, of Arnold, Maryland, is charged under the 1986 computer fraud and abuse act with "hacking" into a federal computer network. If convicted, he faces as many as five years in

prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Prosecutors allege he devised and unleashed a programme that replicated wildly, immobilising an estimated 6,000 computers linked to Internet, including those at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and several air force installations and universities.

Defence attorney Thomas Guidoboni has said that Morris created the worm as a computer security experiment, but that he made a programming mistake that let the worm go berserk.

Guidoboni said during opening statements that once Morris learned of the problems his programme was causing, he tried to stop it, and when that failed, he tried to alert network users.

But Bostic testified that no one in Berkeley's computer science research group received any warning about the worm Morris.

Four top Computer program-

mers worked 16 hours to crack

the worm's defences, he said. According to Bostic, the worm entered the school's computer system by using two defects in the software used by the system and by solving passwords, either through a list built into the worm or by checking possible guesses against the computer's own internal dictionary.

The worm also took advantage of the computers' "trust" for one another on the same system, a process by which a second computer will allow access to the system after seeing that an account already has been authorised by another computer on that system, Bostic said.

The rogue programme hid itself in four ways, he told jurors. It travelled via binary code, rather than a more easily read source code, and those parts of the programme that could be read by a literate user were encrypted to further mask what the worm was doing, Bostic said.

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Monkey spared, but owner in trouble

NEW DELHI (AP) — Ganesan, the rogue monkey sentenced to death for biting a girl, has won a reprieve although his owner may face criminal charges, news reports said Friday. M.A. Nissar, a magistrate in the southern city of Tiruvandur, ordered wildlife officials to take possession of the monkey Thursday and "to treat it as a wild animal," said the Hindu, a Madras-based newspaper. Ganesan had been held at a Tiruvandur police station for a two weeks. His death sentence had been issued by a local magistrate. Animal lovers protested. According to the Hindu and Press Trust of India, one of the appeals came from the new minister of state for environment, Maneka Gandhi. Mrs. Gandhi, the estranged sister-in-law of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, runs a New Delhi Shelter for stray dogs, battered Burros and other hapless animals. Ganesan's execution had been set for Jan. 5, but the Tiruvandur sessions court granted a last-minute stay, pending further investigation. Nissar ruled Friday that the monkey should be returned to the wild, but he directed authorities to set in motion criminal proceedings against Ganesan's owner. The Hindu and Press Trust said Viju Oommen, a Tiruvandur engineer who alleged his daughter was bitten by the monkey, could sue the owner of the animal for damages. The news reports did not identify the owner.

Fortune in gutter

LONDON (R) — A hard-up surveyor found £4 million (\$6.6 million) in a gutter outside London's stock exchange and returned the fortune without a second thought. Martin Ritchie, forced to sell his car to cut his debts, became a millionaire for half an hour on Tuesday when he found the wad of bearer-bond certificates which can be cashed with no questions asked. After he returned them to brokers Rowe and Pitman, 23-year-old Ritchie had no regrets. "I am not thinking I should have done a better (find)," he told reporters. "I suppose I have been brought up honest." A city stockbroker commented: "If I had found them I would have been off." Instead, Ritchie returned to his one-bedroom flat in north London with a magnum of champagne from Rowe and Pitman, and a clear conscience.

Live acts with the dead

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — Police raided a British crematorium Thursday and seized pornographic video cassettes that were being hired out between funerals. Police swooped down on the chapel of rest at the Robin Hood crematorium on the outskirts of Birmingham in central England after a tip-off that sex videos were being rented out. One man was arrested and two other crematorium workers were suspended from duty.

80 Picasso works Stolen from workshop

ANTIBES, France (R) — Thieves have stolen 80 ceramic works by Pablo Picasso worth two million francs (\$350,000) from the French Riviera workshop where the artist worked for 40 years, police said Thursday. The robbers broke through a window of the workshop in Vallauris, near Antibes, on the night of Dec. 28-29, when the gallery was closed for the year-end holiday.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	05	08	45 Cloudy
ATHENS	05	11	52 Clear
BANGKOK	24	33	75 Clear
BARRAN	13	17	55 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	33	75 Clear
Buenos Aires	14	18	54 Clear
Cairo	02	16	34 Clear
CHICAGO	02	06	40 Clear
COPENHAGEN	02	08	45 Cloudy
DUBLIN	02	08	45 Cloudy
GENOVA	02	08	45 Cloudy
HONG KONG	16	21	70 Clear
ISTANBUL	01	08	45 Clear
LOS ANGELES	02	10	50 Cloudy
LONDON	11	12	54 Rain
MADRID	01	04	32 Clear
MEXICO	18	24	64 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-13	08	23 Snow
MOSCOW	-01	01	34 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	10	25	77 Clear
NEW YORK	03	08	47 Clear
PARIS	03	07	45 Clear
ROME	-01	11	52 Cloudy
SYDNEY	20	27	68 Clear
TOKYO	05	11	50 Cloudy
WENNA	07	18	64 Clear

M - indicates missing information.